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A
PRACTICAL TREATISE
ON
BILLS OF EXCHANGE,
CHECKS ON BANKERS,
PROMISSORY NOTES,
BANKERS' CASH NOTES,
AND
BANK NOTES.

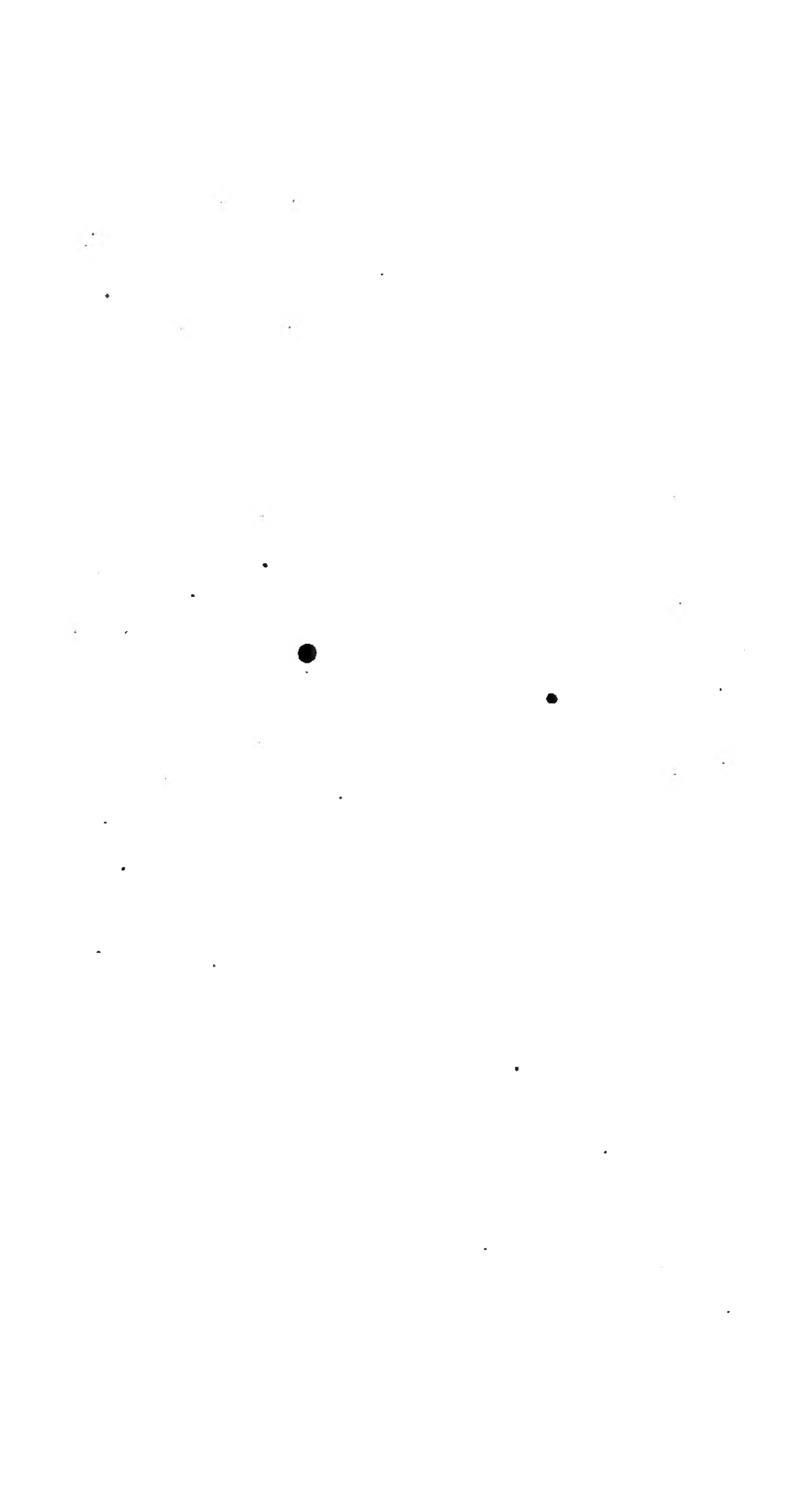
THE FIFTH EDITION,
RE-COMPOSED, ENLARGED, AND IMPROVED, WITH NOTES OF
THE LEADING CASES, AN INDEX OF THEIR NAMES,
AND
AN APPENDIX OF PRECEDENTS.

BY JOSEPH CHITTY, Esq. BARRISTER,
OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE.

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1818.



TO

WILLIAM TIDD, Esq.

THIS TREATISE IS DEDICATED,

AS A

TESTIMONY OF RESPECT FOR HIS TALENTS,

AND AN

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE

GREAT OBLIGATIONS WHICH HIS FRIENDSHIP,

AND

HIS PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTIONS,

HAVE CONFERRED ON

HIS PUPIL AND FRIEND,

THE AUTHOR.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO

THE FIFTH EDITION.



THE increasing importance and practical utility of the Law relative to Bills of Exchange, and the numerous recent decisions on the subject, have induced the Author in this edition, with very considerable labour and anxiety, to recompose and enlarge the greatest part of the work—to insert in the notes full extracts from the leading cases, and to prefix an Alphabetical Index to the decisions.—The chapters relating to Partners—Bankers—Bankers' Checks—Indorsement—Acceptance—Notice of Non-acceptance and Non-payment—and on the Declaration and Evidence, will be found to have been very considerably enlarged, and the General Index has been much improved.—Circumstances which, the Author hopes, will be found to have rendered the work more worthy of the flattering reception it has received.

TEMPLE,
Oct. 1818.

PREFACE

TO

PRIOR EDITIONS.



CONSIDERING the great circulation of bills of exchange and promissory notes in this kingdom, and the loss to which the parties are subject, if they neglect to observe the rules affecting these securities, together with the frequency of litigation respecting them, there is no branch of the Law so important to the merchant, as well as to the lawyer, as that relating to these instruments. An intimate acquaintance with the commercial law in this respect, is particularly essential to the trader, who, too, frequently, for want of being sufficiently apprised of the rules affecting bills, &c. loses the benefit of the security in his hands. It is also of the greatest importance to every professional man, because more ready and immediate advice is required from him in regard to bills and notes, than on almost any other point; and the pleader in particular is called upon, for the utmost expedition in advising and framing the legal proceedings. These considerations have induced the author to offer the following work to the public.

In order to facilitate reference to the particular parts of the treatise, it has been considered expedient, in addition to the General Index at the end of the work, here to give an Analytical Statement of the Contents.

The general division of the Work is into *two* Parts. In the *first*, is considered the *Right*, which may be acquired by a bill of exchange, check, or promissory note ; and in the *second*, the *Remedies* to enforce payment of them.

The FIRST PART is divided into *eight chapters*. In the *first* chapter, the author has considered it useful, as tending to elucidate the peculiar properties of bills of exchange, (viz. their assignable quality, and that of their being *prima facie* valid, without proof of their being founded on any consideration,) concisely to state the doctrine relating to the assignment of choses in action, and the necessity in general, for a contract, not under seal, being founded on a sufficient consideration ; and he has then proceeded shortly to state the history, general nature, and use of foreign and inland bills, and of checks or drafts on bankers; the resemblance between bills, checks, and promissory notes, and how far the law, relating to each, is applicable to the other ; postponing the consideration of promissory notes to the seventh chapter,

In the *second* chapter, the parties to a bill, &c. are stated ; and *first*, is considered the capacity of the parties, or who may be concerned in making, or negotiating a bill of exchange ; and in particular, how far a corporation, an infant, or a married woman, may be party thereto, and the effect of their incompetency, as to the liability of other parties to the bill. And *secondly*, the number and description of the parties, as

drawer, drawee, acceptor, payee, indorser, indorsee, holder, and acceptor, or party paying, *supra protest*; and the mode of becoming a party, as by agent, and who may be such, and how far he may bind his principal, or by the act of a partner, and how far partners may bind each other.

In the *third* chapter, the form in general, and the most essential requisites of bills, &c. are first stated; as that they be payable at all events, not dependent on any contingency, nor payable out of a particular fund; and that they be for the payment of money only, and not for the payment of money and the performance of some other act, nor in the alternative. These important points are fully considered, and the authorities are stated in the notes. The rules relating to the formation of bills of exchange, &c. and their more particular requisites, are next considered in their natural order, with reference to the parts of a foreign and inland bill, and check; the forms of which are for that purpose introduced. And 1st, The proper stamp, and the consequences of a mistake are considered. 2dly, The superscription of the place where the bill is made. 3dly, The date. 4thly, The superscription of the sum to be paid. 5thly, The insertion of the time of payment. 6thly, The request to pay. 7thly, and 8thly, The clauses to be inserted in foreign bills, drawn in several parts. 9thly, The person to whom payable, and of fictitious payees. 10thly, The insertion of the words, "or order, or bearer." 11thly, The sum to be paid. 12thly, Of the words, "value received."

Under the last head, it has been considered expedient fully to consider the points, *first*, as to the want

or insufficiency of a consideration, and when it may constitute a defence to an action on a bill, &c. and *secondly*, are stated the leading decisions, as to the different descriptions of illegality of the consideration, or of the contract, and how far they may invalidate a bill, &c.; and *thirdly*, is shewn what interest, &c. may be taken on discounting a bill.

Then are considered, 13thly, The insertion of the direction to place it to account. 14thly, Of the words, "per advice, &c." 15thly, The subscription of the drawer's name. 16thly, The address to the drawee. And 17thly and 18thly, The place where payment is to be made.

The rules, which govern in the construing, and giving effect to bills, &c.; the delivery of the bill to the payee, and effect thereof, and in general of the receipt of a bill, &c. on account of a pre-existing debt, and the consequences of the alteration of a bill, &c., and the liability of the drawer, are considered in the latter part of this chapter.

In the *fourth* chapter, the indorsement, transfer, and loss of bills, &c. are considered. And 1st, What bills are transferrable. 2dly, Who may transfer a bill, and to whom it may be transferred. 3dly, The time when the transfer may be made, whether before the bill is complete, or after it is due, or after payment. 4thly, The manner in which a transfer may be made, either by an indorsement in blank, in full, or restrictive, or by delivery. 5thly, The nature of the transfer, the right which it vests in the indorsee, &c. and the liability of the party assigning, whether by indorse-

ment or delivery. And *lastly*, are stated the consequences of the loss of a bill, &c. and what conduct the holder should thereupon pursue, and whether he can sue the parties thereto at law, without producing the bill.

The *fifth* chapter contains *five Sections*. In section I. the presentment of a bill for acceptance; in section II. the nature of acceptances; in section III. non-acceptance, and the conduct which the holder should thereupon pursue; in section IV. protest for better security; and in section V, acceptances *supra* protest are considered.

Section I.—When a presentment for acceptance is necessary, at what time it should be made, and the mode of making it.

Section II.—1st, By whom an acceptance may be made. 2dly, At what time it may be made, and here some recent very important decisions are collected, shewing that an acceptance cannot be made before a bill is drawn. 3dly, The form and effect of the different acceptances, whether in writing, or verbal, or absolute, conditional, partial or varying; and what amounts to an acceptance. 4thly, The liability of the acceptor, how far an acceptance is revocable, and how the acceptor's liability may be released or discharged. 5thly, The liability of a party promising to pay a bill.

Section III.—Non-acceptance, and the conduct which the holder must thereupon pursue. 1st, When notice of non-acceptance is necessary; and when the want of it is excusable. 2dly, Of the protest for non-acceptance and of notice, and how it should be given.

3dly, The time when the protest must be made, and the notice given. 4thly, By whom notice must be given. 5thly, To whom it must be given. 6thly, Of the liability of the parties to a bill on the dishonour of it by the drawee. 7thly, How the consequences of neglect to give notice may be waived.

Section IV.—Contains the points relative to the protest for better security.

In Section V.—The nature of an acceptance *supra* protest is considered, and *first*, by whom it may be made; *secondly*, the mode of making it; *thirdly*, the liability of such acceptor; and *lastly*, the nature of his right against the parties for whose honour he accepted the bill.

The *sixth* chapter contains four sections. In section *first*, presentment of a bill, &c. for payment; in section *second*, payment; in section *third*, the conduct to be pursued on non-payment; and in section *fourth*, payment *supra* protest are considered.

SECT. I. Presentment for payment; *first*, when it is necessary, and when the neglect is excusable; *secondly*, by and to whom, and where, the presentment should be made; *thirdly*, the time when a bill, check, or note, should be presented for payment, and herein in general of the mode of computing the time when a bill, &c. is due; of new and old style, of days of grace, of usances, of lunar and calendar months, of bills payable at sight, when due, when checks, bills, &c. payable on demand, or generally, should be presented for payment; and of the time of the day when the presentment should be made, and of leaving the bill on presentment for payment.


SECT. II. Of payment; *first*, by and to whom it may be made, and the consequences of the payment to a party having no interest in the bill, or *to* or *by* a bankrupt; *secondly*, within what time payment must be made; *thirdly*, how it should be made, and herein of payment by remittance of a bill, or by draft, and of giving up the bill to the acceptor, of the effect of giving time to the acceptor or prior indorser, and of receiving part payment from such parties, of the consequences of proving under a commission, and of compounding with the acceptor; *fourthly*, of the receipt for payment; *fifthly*, of the effect of payment, &c. and how far money paid by mistake may be recovered back.

SECT. III. Of the conduct which the holder should pursue on non-payment, which is in general governed by the same rules, as in the case of non-acceptance; and *first*, when notice of non-payment is necessary; *secondly*, the form and mode of giving notice, by protest in the case of a foreign bill, and sometimes of an inland bill, and by notice of non-payment in all cases; *thirdly*, the time when protest must be made and notice given, and here some very important recent decisions are stated relating to the time when notice of non-payment is to be given, and whether the reasonableness thereof be a question of law, or of fact; *fourthly*, by whom notice of non-payment must be given: *fifthly*, to whom; *sixthly*, the liability of the different parties thereupon; *seventhly*, how the consequences of the neglect to give notice may be waived or done away; *eighthly*, of the effect of giving time, of receiving part, and of compounding.

SECT. IV. Of payment *supra protest* for the honour of the drawer, and indorsers, and of the right of the party making such payment.

In the *seventh* chapter of the present edition, checks on bankers are separately considered.

In the *eighth* chapter, the points relating to promissory notes, bankers' notes, and Bank of England notes are considered; and *first*, the origin and nature of *promissory notes*, the effect given to them by the 3d and 4th Ann. c. 9., their resemblance to bills of exchange, and how far the rules applicable to the one affect the other. The form and requisites of these notes, are governed in general by the same rules as those affecting bills, the stamps thereon, and the transfer thereof. *Secondly*, *bankers' cash notes* are considered, and the stamps thereon, and transfer thereof; and *lastly*, the nature of Bank notes, and the various points relating thereto.



The **SECOND PART** relates to the *remedies* or modes of enforcing payment of a bill, note, &c. and is divided into *seven chapters*.

In the *first* chapter is stated by, and against, whom an action of *assumpsit* may be supported.

In the *second* chapter, the requisites of the affidavit to hold to bail, and the arrest for a debt due on a bill, &c. the nature and parts of a declaration on a bill, &c., and the common counts applicable to the consideration thereof, and what are proper to be inserted, are considered; and in this chapter, as well as in the Appendix of Precedents, with the Notes, the

author has endeavoured to state all the points relating to the declaration.

The *third* chapter relates to the staying of proceedings on payment of debt and costs, to judgment by default, reference to the master to compute principal and interest due on the bill, &c. the writ of inquiry, and the defences and pleas in an action on a bill.

In the *fourth* chapter, the evidence in an action on a bill, &c. is fully considered. And *first*, what facts the plaintiff must prove, and *first*, the making of the bill, &c.: *secondly*, that the defendant became party thereto, as acceptor, drawer or indorser; *thirdly*, the plaintiff's interest in the bill, as payee, bearer, indorsee or acceptor *supra* protest; *fourthly*, the breach of the defendant's contract, as the default of acceptance or payment.

Secondly. The mode of proving these facts, and *first* of the mode of proving the bill; *secondly*, how the defendant became party thereto; *thirdly*, the plaintiff's interest, and *lastly*, the non-acceptance or non-payment, and notice thereof to the defendant, and in general of the competency of *witnesses*. The evidence to be adduced by the defendant is also considered.

In the *fifth* chapter, the verdict and damages in an action on a bill, &c. are considered, and *first*, how much of the sum payable by the bill, &c. is recoverable when the defendant has not had value for the whole amount, or when the bill, &c. is payable by instalments; *secondly*, what interest; *thirdly*, what expenses, re-exchange, provision, &c. are recoverable.

The *sixth* chapter relates to the action of *debt*, on a bill, &c. and when it is sustainable.

In the *seventh* chapter the whole law relative to the effect of *bankruptcy* on the holder of a bill, &c. is fully considered.

In the APPENDIX are to be found a few of the forms of such affidavits, declarations on promissory notes, checks on bankers, and on inland and foreign bills, as usually occur in practice. Other forms will be found in the third volume of the Treatise on Pleading. The forms of notices and of judgments on bills, &c. on a reference to the master to compute principal and interest, a list of notaries' fees, the statutes relating to bills of exchange and promissory notes in general, and those relating to small bills and notes, and the stamps on bills and notes, &c. and relating to usury, and an interest table, are also inserted.

Considering the comparative simplicity of declarations on bills of exchange and promissory notes, and the numberless actions upon these securities, they are very often incorrect, and nonsuits frequently occur, either from the insertion of unnecessary allegations, or from the omission of second counts, which it may be expedient to insert; therefore, in this edition, the appendix of forms has been considerably enlarged, and notes to each part are given, pointing out what allegations are necessary or advisable, together with the cases in which it may be proper to insert more than one count on each bill, &c.

TEMPLE,
Dec. 1st, 1812.

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A
TREATISE
ON
BILLS OF EXCHANGE, &c.

PART FIRST.

THE RIGHT ACQUIRED BY BILLS, &c.

CHAPTER I.

THE GENERAL NATURE, UTILITY, AND HISTORY OF
BILLS OF EXCHANGE, &c.

A BILL of EXCHANGE is defined by Mr. Justice Blackstone to be an open letter of request, or an order from one person to another, desiring him to pay, on his account, a sum of money therein mentioned, to a third person¹. It is consequently an assignment to a third person of a debt due to the person drawing the bill, from the person upon whom it is drawn. In other contracts and securities there are generally only two parties, or at most a third as a guarantee; whereas, on account of the assignable quality of a bill of exchange, there may be, and usually are, many more parties, severally liable for the performance of the contract. The person who makes or draws the bill is termed the *drawer*; he to whom it is addressed is, before acceptance, called the *drawee*, and afterwards, the *acceptor*, the person in whose favour it is drawn is termed the *payee*, and when he indorses the bill, the *indorser*; and the person to whom he transfers it is called the *indorsee*, or *holder*². Though this security

Definition:
General Nature
and Utility.

¹ 2 Bla. Com. 466.—Gibson v. Minet, 1 Hen. Bla. 586.—Stock v. Mawson, 1 Bos. & Pul. 291.—Walwyn v. St. Quintin, 1 Bos. & Pul. 654.—Selw. Ni. Pri. 4th edit. 285.—Bayl. on Bills, 3d edit. 1.—Rex v. Box, 6 Taunt. 325.

² Bayl. 2.

is entitled to peculiar privileges, yet it is to be considered as a simple contract debt in the course of administration, which an executor or administrator cannot discharge until after satisfying debts by bond, without being guilty of a devastavit. And for the same reason, a bill of exchange is considered as following the person of the debtor, and as *bona notabilia* where he resides at the time of the creditor's death, whereas a bond, or other specialty, is *bona notabilia*, wherever it may be at the time of such death'. And though a bond or bank note may be delivered in prospect of death, and be a good donation *mortis causâ*, bills of exchange, promissory notes, and checks on bankers, seem incapable of being the objects of such donation'. A

¹ Yeomans v. Bradshaw, Carth. 373.—3 Salk. 70 and 164.—Comb. 892, S. C.—Bac. Ab. tit. Executors, E. 2.—Com. Dig. Administrator, B. 4. The case of Yeomans v. Bradshaw, as reported in Carth. 373, was an action on a bill of exchange, brought by the plaintiff, as administratrix of her late husband, against the drawer; the bill was drawn in London. The defendant cravedoyer of the letters of administration, which were granted by the Bishop of Durham. Upon demurrer, it was insisted, that a bill of exchange was only a simple contract debt, and so followed the person of the debtor, wherever he might be, and that the right of granting administration belonged to the ordinary of the place where the debtor was at the time of the death of the intestate, and that the administration was void, and of which opinion were the court, and gave judgment for the defendant; and see the judgment of Holt, C. J. in the same case, 3 Salk. 70.

² Miller v. Miller, 3 P. W. 356.—Ward v. Turner, 2 Ves. sen. 442. Tate v. Hilbert, 2 Ves. jun. 111.—Lawson v. Lawson, 1 P. W. 441.—1 Roper on Leg. 2d ed. 3.—Toller Executors, 3d ed. 234, 5, where see the exceptions. Miller v. Miller, 3 P. W. 356. A person, after having made his will, and about an hour before his death, delivered to his wife two bank notes for £300 each, and another note for £100 (not being a cash note, or payable to bearer), adding, that he had not sufficiently provided for her. On a bill filed in the name of the infant son, being the residuary legatee, against the widow and executors, for an account of the testator's personal estate, it was insisted, that the £600 was in payment of a legacy given her by the testator in a codicil to his will, and that, with regard to the other note for £100, which was not payable to bearer, that was merely a chose in action, and consequently could not pass by a delivery thereof. Per Master of the Rolls, the gift of the £600, contained in the bank notes, was a *donatio causâ mortis*, which operates as such, though made to a wife, for it is in nature of a legacy, though it need not be proved in the Spiritual court as part of the testator's will. But as to the note for £100, which was merely a chose in action, and must still be sued in the name of the executors, that cannot take effect as a *donatio causâ mortis*, inasmuch as no property could pass therein by the delivery. See also Ward v. Turner, 2 Ves. sen. 442, and Tate v. Hilbert, 2 Ves. jun. 120, in which it was held, that a check on a banker,

bill of exchange also being merely a simple contract, it is affected by the statute of limitations, and must be sued for within six years after it is payable¹. And being a chose in action, and a mere security for a debt, it is not to be considered as goods and chattels, and it therefore does not pass by a bequest of all the testator's "property" in a particular house, though bank notes would have passed, they being *quasi* cash²; and upon the same principle, a bank note or bill cannot be taken in execution, or as a distress for rent³. And the accepting of a bill or note, in satisfaction of a specialty debt or demand for rent, at most only suspends the remedy on the former security, and does not entirely defeat it⁴.

General Nature
and Utility.

A Bill of Exchange is a security originally invented amongst merchants in different countries for the more easy and safe remittance of money from the one to the other, and has since been extended to commercial transactions in this kingdom⁵. The instance put by Mr. Justice Blackstone of the utility of the instrument, is this, "If A. live in Jamaica, and owe B. who lives in England, £1000., now if C. be going from England to Jamaica he may advance B. this £1000. and take a bill of exchange, drawn by B. in England upon A. in Jamaica, and receive it when he comes thither: thus B. receives his debt at any distance of place by transferring it to C., who carries over his money in paper credit, without the risk of robbery or loss." In the origin of bills of exchange, it is probable that their principal utility was the safe transfer of property from one place to another, but that since the great increase

delivered by J. S. on his death-bed, did not take effect as a *donatio causâ mortis*. But see 1 P. W. 441, and Toller's Law of Executors, 3d ed. 234, 5.

¹ *Renew v. Axton*, Carth. 3.

² *Flemming v. Brook*, 1 Sch. & Lef. 318.—*Stewart v. Marquis of Bute*, 11 Ves. 662.

³ *Francis v. Nash*, Cas. Temp. Hardw. 53.—*Knight v. Criddle*, 9 East. 48.

⁴ *Curtis v. Rush*, 2 Ves. & Bea. 416.—*Drake v. Mitchell*, 3 East. 261.—*Harris v. Shipway*, Bul. N. P. 182.

⁵ 2 Bla. Com. 466, 7.

General Nature
and Utility.

of commerce, they have become the signs of valuable property and equivalent to specie, enlarging the capital stock of wealth in circulation, and thereby facilitating and increasing the trade and commerce of the country¹. The trader whose capital may not be sufficient to enable him to pay ready money for the commodity which he purchases, on account of his not having the means of immediately obtaining payment of the debts due to him from others, and who might find a difficulty on his own individual security, to purchase goods, or obtain money for the purposes of his trade, by drawing a bill on one of his debtors payable at a future period, may obtain the goods or money on the credit of such bill; the vendor of the goods, to whom the bill is handed as a security, may also, in his turn, obtain goods or money, in the way of his trade, on the credit of the bill, and the bill may have the same effect in different persons hands, to whom it may be transferred by indorsement or otherwise. This security is preferable to many others of a more formal nature, for each of the parties to a bill, by simply writing his name upon it either as drawer, acceptor, or indorser, guarantees the due payment of it at maturity, and the consideration in respect of which he became a party to it can be rarely inquired into; whereas, in the case of a formal guarantee, the Statute against Frauds² requires the consideration to be expressed, and other matters of form, which frequently render an intended guarantee wholly inoperative³. So with respect to interest, it is a better security than a bond, for when the principal and interest in a bond equal the amount of the penalty, the interest must thenceforth cease

¹ Per Eyre, *C. J. Gibson v. Minet*, 1 Hen. Bla. 618.

² 29 Car. 2. ch. 3. s. 4.

³ *Wain v. Walter*, 5 East. 10. In this case it was held, that an engagement in writing to pay the debt of a third person at an hour named, in consideration of the creditor suspending proceedings in an action till that time, but which consideration did not appear on the face of the written engagement, was void on that account; but in *Ex parte Minet*, 14 Ves. jun. 189, and in *Ex parte Gardom*, 15 Ves. jun. 286. this doctrine was denied; and see *La Morris v. Stacey*, Holt N. P. C. 158, in notes.

for the obligor in a bond is not answerable in the whole beyond the amount of the penalty¹. From the circumstance also of the exposure of the contract to the public eye, there is a stronger stimulus on every party to a bill, to take care that it be duly honoured; whereas punctual payment of a guaranty or bond is not so frequent, and consequently less to be relied on in commerce, where certainty is so essential to the welfare of the merchant.

General Nature
and Utility.

There are, however, some disadvantages accompanying this security, compared with others, and principally, that in case of the dishonour of the bill by the person on whom it is drawn, the holder must immediately give notice of the non-payment to all the other parties, or he will lose the benefit of his security; whereas in the case of a guaranty such nice and exact conduct on the part of the creditor is not in general requisite². Again, in case of death, a bill of exchange being a simple contract, is not entitled to the same priority of payment out of the assets of the deceased as a bond; nor is there the same expeditious or extensive mode of obtaining payment as in case of a bond, warrant of attorney, Statute Staple, or Statute Merchant³.

The pernicious effects of a fabricated credit, by the undue use of accommodation bills of exchange, drawn out of the ordinary course of trade, have been too much felt to require any observation; the use of them, where there is no real demand subsisting between the different parties, is injurious to the public as well as to the parties concerned in the negotiation⁴; unless in cases where, from some sudden and

¹ *Hefford v. Alger*, 1 Taunt. 220.—*Wild v. Clarkson*, 6 T. R. 303. *Ex parte Mills*, 2 Ves. jun. 301.—*Clark v. Seaton*, 6 Ves. jun. 411. but observe, that in an action of debt on a judgment recovered on a bond, interest may be recovered in damages beyond the penalty of the bond, *M'Clure v. Dunkin*, 1 East. 436.

² *Warrington v. Furber*, 8 East. 245. but see *Philips and Astling*, 2 Taunt. 206. See these cases, post.

³ 28 *Saund.* 70 a. & b. in note.

⁴ *Per* *Ld. Eldon*, in *Ex parte Wilson*, 11 Ves. 411.

General Nature
and Utility.

unexpected event, a particular branch of commerce may be affected and the trader unable to bring his commodities to a fair market, in time to meet the payments for which he has to provide. In these cases, by the temporary assistance of friends, through the medium of Bills of Exchange, his credit may be saved, and he may be enabled to hold his goods till some fair opportunity of sale presents itself. The use of fictitious names to bills has not been unfrequent, but this practice is not only censurable but in some cases punishable criminally¹.

Peculiar Properties of Bills, &c.

The various advantages which commerce derives from the use of Bills of Exchange, have induced our courts of justice to allow them certain peculiar privileges in order to give full effect to their utility. These are, *first*, that although a Bill of Exchange is a chose in action, yet it may be *assigned* so as to vest the *legal* as well as equitable interest therein, in the indorsee or assignee, and to entitle him to sue thereon *in his own name*. And, *secondly*, that although a Bill of Exchange, &c. is not a specialty, but merely a simple contract, yet a *sufficient consideration* is *implied* from the nature of the instrument and its existence in fact is rarely necessary to be proved².

The *first* of these privileges is of most essential importance in various points of view, and principally that a release by the drawer to the acceptor, or a set-off or cross demand due from the former to the latter, cannot affect the right of action of the payee or indorsee; because the *legal* and not the mere equitable interest is vested in such payee or indorsee, and the action is sustainable in his own name; whereas suits upon bonds, and most other choses in action, must be in the name of the original obligee; and though it be apparent that he sues merely as a trustee for another to whom he has assigned his interest, yet a release from him, or a set-off due from him to the

¹ See post.

² Bishop v. Young, 2 Bos. & Pul. 79.

obligor, may be an effectual bar to the action¹. The *second* of these privileges is also of great importance. In general, an action cannot be supported upon a contract not under seal, without alleging in pleading, and proving on the trial, that the contract was made for a sufficient consideration; but in the case of Bills of Exchange, promissory notes, &c. a sufficient consideration is *presumed*, and the validity of the bill, &c. cannot in general be disputed on account of the want of sufficient consideration, when it is in the hands of a third person who has given value for it.

Peculiar Properties of Bills, &c.

As it may tend to elucidate the properties of Bills of Exchange, and other negotiable instruments of that nature, we will shortly examine the doctrine relating to the assignment of choses in action; and the necessity in general for a sufficient consideration to give effect to a contract.

The first peculiar privilege of a Bill of Exchange is *its assignable quality*, and which is in direct opposition to a very ancient rule of law, the founders of which refused to sanction or give effect to the transfer of any possibility, right, or any other *chose in action*, (which is defined to be a right not reduced into possession³), to a stranger; on the ground that such alienations tended to increase maintenance and litigation, and afforded means to powerful men to purchase rights of action, and thereby enable them to oppress indigent debtors, whose original creditors would not perhaps have sued them⁴. Our ancestors were so anxious to

Doctrine as to the assignment of choses in action².

¹ *Bauerman v. Radenius*, 7 T. R. 663.

² As to the assignment of choses in action in general, see *Master v. Miller*, 4 T. R. 340.—In *Williamson v. Thompson*, 16 Ves. jun. 443. it was held, that the indorsement of an India Certificate did not pass the legal interest.—In *Glynn v. Baker*, 13 East. 509. it was held, that an India Bond was not assignable, but this has been since altered by 51 Geo. 3. c. 64. which makes them assignable, and enables the assignee to sue in his own name.

³ *Termes de la ley*, tit. Chose in Action.—2 Bla. Com. 442. In other words, “the interest in a contract, which, in case of non-performance, can only be reduced into *beneficial* possession by an action or suit.”

⁴ Co. Lit. 214. 265. a. n. 1. 232. b. n. 1.—2 Rol. Ab. 45. 46.—Godb. 81.—*Termes de la ley*, tit. Chose in Action.—*Scholey v. Daniel*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 541.

Doctrine as to the
assignment of
choses in action.

prevent alienation of choses, or rights in action, that we find it enacted by the 32 H. 8. c. 9. which, it is said, was in affirmance of the common law¹, that no person should buy or sell, or by any means obtain any right or title to any manors, lands, tenements, or hereditaments, unless the person contracting to sell, or his ancestor, or they by whom he or they claim the same, had been in *possession* of the same, or of the reversion or remainder thereof, for the space of one year before the contract: and this statute was adjudged to extend to the assignment of a copyhold estate², and of a chattel interest, as a lease for years, of land, whereof the grantor was not in possession³. At what time this doctrine, which it is said had relation originally only to *landed estates*⁴, was first adjudged to be equally applicable to the assignment of a mere *personal* chattel not in possession, it is not easy to decide: it seems, however, to have been so settled at a very early period of our history, as the works of our oldest text writers, and the reports, contain numberless observations and cases on the subject. Lord Coke says⁵ that it is one of the maxims of the common law, that no right of action can be transferred, “because, under colour thereof, pretended titles might be granted to great men, whereby right might be trodden down, and the weak oppressed, which the common law forbiddeth.” Accordingly we find, that judgment was arrested in an action on a bond conditioned for the performance of articles of agreement, which contained a covenant that the defendant should assign certain bonds to the plaintiff for his own use, on the ground that such condition and covenant amounted to maintenance⁶. And although it was decided that the king,

¹ Partridge v. Strange, Plowd. 88.

² Kite and Queinton's case, 4 Co. 26. a.

³ Partridge v. Strange, Plowd. 88. As to a possibility in land, see Jones v. Roe, 3 T. R. 88.—1 Hen. Bla. 30. S. C.—Cullen, 178.

⁴ 2 Woodd 388.

⁵ Co. Lit. 214. a.—See also Scholey v. Daniel, 2 Bos. & Pul. 541.

⁶ Hodson v. Ingram, Aleyn. 60. *et vide* 2 Rol. Ab. 45. l. 40.

in respect of his prerogative, might transfer a right of action¹, yet it was afterwards ruled that his assignee had no such power². Doctrine as to the assignment of choses in action.

This doctrine, however strictly adhered to in our courts of law, was not adopted by our courts of *equity*³: for though it is said to have been decided in the 11th James I⁴. that the assignee of a covenant could not sue in a court of equity to enforce performance, because it was against law to assign a covenant, yet that seems to be an insulated case; and no other authority is to be found, where a court of equity has refused to give effect to the assignment of a *chose* in action, provided such assignment were made for a sufficient consideration⁵. A court of equity having it in its power to decree according to the justice of every case, there could have been no danger of maintenance being increased by its giving effect to such assignments; we therefore find a great number of cases where decrees have been made in favour of such assignees⁶.

In courts of *law*, the *equitable* interest of the assignee of a *chose* in action seems to have been recognized as far back as the middle of the last century, when we find it said by one of the judges⁷, “that if an assignee of a *chose* in action, have an equity, that equity should be no exile to the courts of common law.” In another case also, the court speak⁸ of an assignment of an apprentice, or an assignment of a bond, as things valid between the parties, and to which they

¹ Co. Lit. 232. b. n. 1.—Breverton's case, 1 Dyer, 30. b. pl. 208.—The King v. Wendham, Cro. Jac. 82.

² The King v. Twine, Cro. Jac. 180.—Kingdom v. Jones, Skin. 6. 20.

³ Per Buller, J. in Master v. Miller, 4 T. R. 340.

⁴ 1 Rol. Abr. 376. l. b.

⁵ Vin. Abr. tit. Maintenance, B.—2 Rol. Abr. 45, 46.—Co. Lit. 232.

⁶ Baldwin v. Rochford, 1 Wils. 229.—Wright v. Wright, 1 Ves. 411, 412.—Peters v. Soame, 2 Vern. 428.—Baldwin v. Billingsley, id. 540.—Crouch v. Martin, id. 595.—Cole v. Jones, id. 692.—Carteret (Lord) v. Paschel, 3 P. W. 199.; and it has lately been decided, that an equitable assignment of a debt, may be by parol as well as by deed, Heath v. Hall, 4 Taunt. 326.

⁷ In Kingdom v. Jones, 33 Car. 2. Skin. 6, 7.—Sir T. Jones, 150. S. C.

⁸ The King against the Parish of Aickless, 12 Mod. 554.

Doctrine as to the assignment of choses in action.

must give their sanction; and an assignment of a *chose* in action has always been deemed a sufficient consideration for a promise¹, although the debt assigned was uncertain². So indeed it was decided, that where the obligee has assigned over a bond, and afterwards become a bankrupt, he might nevertheless bring an action on the bond³; and that in an action upon a bond given to the plaintiff in trust for another, the defendant may set off a debt due from the person beneficially interested, in like manner, as if the action had been brought by the cestui que trust⁴. But though courts of law have gone the length of taking notice of assignments of *choses* in action, and of giving effect to them, yet in almost every case they have adhered to the formal objection that the action should be brought in the name of the assignor, and not in the name of the assignee; the consequence of which rule is, that the defendant may give in evidence a release, declaration, or admission of the plaintiff on the record, to defeat the action, although it be evident such plaintiff is but a mere trustee for a third person⁵. It has been observed, that the substance of the rule being done away, there can be no use or convenience in preserving the shadow of it; for where a third person is permitted to acquire the interest in a thing, whether he bring the action in his own name or in the name of the assignor, does not seem to affect the question of

¹ 1 Rol. Abr. 29.—Loder v. Chesleyn, Sid. 212.—Lewis v. Wallis, Sir T. Jones, 222.—Meredith v. Short, 1 Salk. 25.—Banfill v. Leigh, 8 T. R. 571.—Israel v. Douglass, 1 Hen. Bla. 239.

² Mouldsdales v. Birchall, 2 Bla. Rep. 820.

³ Winch v. Keeley, 1 T. R. 619.—Carpenter v. Marnel, 3 Bos. & Pul. 40.

⁴ Bottomley v. Brook, and Rudge v. Birch, cited in 1 T. R. 621. and in 4 T. R. 341. *sed vide* Bauerman v. Radenius, 7 T. R. 663. But the court refused to allow a defendant to set off a bond debt of the plaintiff assigned to him by a third person to whom and for whose use it was originally given, Wake v. Tinkler, 16 East. 36.

⁵ Bauerman v. Radenius, 7 T. R. 663.—Banfill v. Leigh, 8 T. R. 571.—Jones v. Dunlop, id. 596.—Offly v. Ward, 1 Lev. 235.—Johnson v. Collings, 1 East. 104. *et vide* Medlicot's case, Sel. Cas. 161.

maintenance¹. However, in a late case², Lord Kenyon expressed his determination not to sanction the assignment of a *chose* in action, so as to allow the assignee to sue in his own name. The consequence of this doctrine is, that if an instrument which is not assignable at law, so as to pass the legal interest be indorsed by the person to whom it is payable to his agent to whom he is indebted generally, without any specific appropriation, the agent in case of the death of the principal will have no legal or equitable interest in the instrument towards satisfaction of his debt but must restore it to the executor³.

Doctrine as to the assignment of choses in action.

Even at the earliest period of our history, the doctrine relating to the assignment of *choses* in action was found to be too great a clog on commercial intercourse; an exception was therefore soon allowed in favour of mercantile transactions. It was the observation of the learned and elegant commentator on the English laws, that in the infancy of trade, when the bulk of national wealth consisted of real property, our courts did not often condescend to regulate personalty; but, as the advantages arising from commerce were gradually felt, they were anxious to encourage it by removing the restrictions by which the transfer of interests in it was bound. On this ground, the custom of merchants, whereby a foreign Bill of Exchange is assignable by the payee to a third person, so as to vest in him the *legal* as well as equitable interest therein, was recognized and supported by our courts of justice in the fourteenth century; and the custom of merchants, rendering an inland Bill transferrable, was established in the seventeenth century. In short, our courts, anxiously attending to the interests of the

¹ Per Buller, J. in *Master v. Miller*, 4 T. R. 340. *et vide* *Winch v. Keeley*, 1 T. R. 621.—*Israel v. Douglass*, 1 Hen. Bla. 239. and *Banfill v. Leigh*, 8 T. R. 571.

² *Johnson v. Collings*, 1 East. 104.—*Whitwell v. Bennett*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 559.

³ *Williamson v. Thomson*, 16 Ves. jun. 443.

Doctrine as to the assignment of choses in action.

community, have, in favour of commerce, adopted a less technical mode of considering *personalty* than *realty*; and, in support of commercial transactions, have established the law merchant, which is a system founded on the rules of equity, and governed in all its parts by plain justice and good faith¹.

Of the distinction between different contracts as to consideration, and which is presumed in the case of a bill of exchange, &c.

Having thus endeavoured to point out the peculiar properties of a Bill of Exchange, in respect of its being assignable so as to give the holder a right of action in his own name, it will be proper to make a few observations on the second privilege by which it is distinguished from other simple contracts, *that of its importing a consideration unless the contrary be shewn*².

When a consideration not essential to validity of a bill of exchange, &c.

Contracts are of three descriptions. 1st. Matter of record. 2dly. Specialty. 3dly. Parol or simple contracts. The *first* of these, viz. the judgment of, or a recognizance acknowledged before a court of *record*, on account of its being sanctioned by such tribunal, cannot be impeached, or the propriety of it questioned, in any action on the judgment, but only by writ of error. Nor can there be any allegation in pleading against the validity of a record, though there may be against its operation. *Secondly. Specialties* rank next in point of estimation. These, on account of the deliberate mode in which they are supposed to be made and executed, have always been holden to bind the party making them, although they were executed without adequate consideration³, and consequently it is not incumbent on the plaintiff in an action upon a deed to state or prove upon what cause or for what consideration⁴ it was made; and though

¹ Per Buller, J. in *Master v. Miller*, 4 T. R. 342.

² Per Ld. Ellenborough, C. J. in *Philliskirk v. Pluckwell*, 2 M. & S. 395.

³ See the argument in *Sharington v. Strotton*, Plowd. 308. where it is said that deeds are received as a lien, final to the party making them, although he received no consideration, in respect of the deliberate mode in which they are supposed to be made and executed; for 1st, the deed is *prepared and drawn*; then the *seal* is affixed; and lastly, the contracting party *delivers* it, which is the consummation of his resolution.

⁴ *Fellows v. Taylor*, 7 T. R. 477.—*Bunn v. Guy*, 4 East. 200.

the defendant may be at liberty to avail himself of the *illegality* in the consideration, it is incumbent on him to state it in pleading, and to establish it by evidence¹. But the *third* description, namely, *parol or simple contracts*, which includes as well unsealed written contracts as those which are merely verbal, are not in general entitled to such respect, because the law presumes that such contracts may have been made inadvertently, and without sufficient reflection², and therefore, in general, they will not be enforced, unless the plaintiff can prove that they were made for a sufficient consideration³. It is otherwise, however, in the case of a Bill of Exchange⁴, it being scarcely ever necessary for the *plaintiff* to prove that he gave a consideration for it; and the *defendant* is not at liberty to prove that he received no consideration, unless in an action brought against him by the person with whom he was immediately concerned in the negotiation of the instrument⁵, or by a person who has given no value for it. In this respect, therefore, a Bill of Exchange, although it is not a specialty⁶, yet it carries with it the same presumption of a consideration as a bond, or other specialty, particularly when it is in the hands of a third person⁷. It is not, however, owing to the *form* of a Bill of Exchange, nor to the circumstance of its being in *writing*, that the law gives it this effect, but in order to strengthen and facilitate that commercial intercourse which is carried on through

When a consideration not essential to validity of a bill of exchange, &c.

¹ Petrie v. Hanney, 3 T. R. 424.

² Fonbl. 329. 333.—Sharlington v. Strotton, Plowd. 308.

³ See the case of Rann v. Hughes, 7 T. R. 350. in which it was adjudged that all contracts are by the law of England distinguished into agreements by specialty and agreements by parol, and that there is not any such third class as contracts in writing; if they be merely written, and not specialties, they are *parol*, and a consideration must be proved. See also same case in 7 Bro. Parl. Cas. 550.—Parker v. Baylis, 2 Bos. & Pul. 77.—Johnson v. Collings, 1 East. 104.—Sharlington v. Strotton, Plowd. 308.—Petrie v. Hanney, 3 T. R. 421.

⁴ Simmonds v. Parminter, 1 Wils. 189.

⁵ Guichard v. Roberts, 1 Bla. Rep. 445.—Lewis and Cosgrave, 2 Taunt. 2.

⁶ Yeomans v. Bradshaw, 3 Salk. 70. ante, 2.

⁷ Philliskirk v. Pluckwell, 2 M. & S. 95.

When a consideration not essential to validity of a bill of exchange, &c.

the medium of this species of security : for, notwithstanding a contract be in writing, it is essential to the validity of it, that it should in all cases be founded on a sufficient consideration, unless the writing, from its being of the highest solemnity, imports a consideration, or unless it be negotiable at law, and the interests of third persons are involved in its efficacy.

The history, &c. of foreign bills.

Having endeavoured to state two of the most peculiar properties of a Bill of Exchange, namely, its assignable quality, and its validity in the hands of a bona fide holder, though made without consideration, it may be proper to inquire concisely into the history, general nature, and use of these instruments.

Bills of Exchange are Foreign or Inland. *Foreign*, when drawn by a person abroad upon another in England, or *vice versa*; and *Inland*, when both the drawer and the drawee reside within this kingdom.

It seems extremely doubtful at what period, or by whom, *Foreign Bills of Exchange* were first invented. The elementary writers on the subject differ. It is said by Pothier¹, that there is no vestige among the Romans of Bills of Exchange, or of any contract of exchange; for though it appears that Cicero directed one of his friends at Rome, who had money to receive at Athens, to cause it to be paid to his son at that place, and that friend accordingly wrote to one of his debtors at Athens, and ordered him to pay a sum of money to Cicero's son, yet it is observed that this mode amounted to nothing more than a mere order, or mandate, and was not that species of pecuniary negotiation which is carried on through the medium of a Bill of Exchange; nor does it appear that the commerce of the Romans was carried on by means of this instrument; for we find by one of their laws², that a person lending money to a merchant who navigated the seas, was under the necessity of sending one of

¹ Traité de Droit. Civil, tit. Traité du Contrat de Change, pl. 6.

² De nautico fœnere.

his slaves to receive of his debtor the sum lent, when the debtor arrived at his destined port, which would certainly have been unnecessary, if commerce, through the medium of Bills of Exchange, had been in use with them. Most of our modern writers have asserted (probably on the authority of Montesquieu¹), that these instruments were invented and brought into general use by the Jews and Lombards when banished for their usury, in order, with the secrecy necessary to prevent confiscation, to draw their effects out of France and England, to those countries in which they had chosen, or been compelled to reside; but Mr. Justice Blackstone says², this opinion is erroneous, because the Jews were banished out of Guienne in the year 1287, and out of England in the year 1290³; and in the year 1236 the use of paper credit was introduced into the Mogul empire in China⁴. Other authors have attributed the invention to the Florentines, when, being driven out of their country by the faction of the Gebelings, they established themselves at Lyons and other towns⁵. On the whole, however, there is no certainty on the subject, though it seems clear, Foreign Bills were in use in the fourteenth century, as appears from a Venetian law of that period; and an inference drawn from the statute 5 Rich. 2. st. 1, 2⁶. warrants the conclusion, that Foreign Bills were introduced into this country previously to the year 1381.

The history, &c.
of foreign bills.

The mode of transmitting money from one country to another by means of these instruments, being once discovered, the advantages derived from it soon induced merchants universally to adopt it; and from thence it very early grew into a custom, which seems to have been judicially sanctioned in this country at a very

¹ Esp. L. 21. c. 16. n. 1.

² 2 Bla. Com. 467.

³ 2 Carte. Hist. Engl. 203. 206.

⁴ The only authority in support of this assertion is the 4 Mod. Un. Hist. 499.

⁵ Poth. pl. 7.

⁶ Claxton v. Swift, 2 Show. 441, 494.

The history, &c.
of foreign bills.

early period of our history, though no earlier decision relative to the custom can be found, than in Jas. 1st, where it was adjudged, that an acceptance raised an *assumpsit* in law, for the breach of which an action on the case would lie. However, as our courts did not at first conceive it necessary to the encouragement of commerce, that this exception to the rule relative to *choses* in action, should be carried any further than to Foreign Bills drawn merely for the purposes of trade, we find that formerly they would only give effect to bills made between merchant strangers and English merchants², however, it was soon extended to all traders, and finally, to all persons, whether traders or not³.



The history, use,
&c. of inland bills
of exchange.

INLAND BILLS of EXCHANGE, (which are so called because they are drawn and payable in this country,) according to Lord C. J. Holt's opinion, did not originate at a much earlier period than the reign of Charles the Second⁴. They were at first, like foreign bills, more restricted in their operation than they are at present; for it was deemed essential to their validity, that a special custom for the drawing and accepting them should exist between the towns in which the drawer and acceptor lived; or, if they lived in the same town, that such a custom should exist therein. At first also effect was only given to the custom when the parties were merchants, though afterwards extended, as in the case of Foreign Bills, to all persons,

¹ Martin and Boure, Cro. Jac. 6.—Oaste v. Taylor, Cro. Jac. 306.—1 Rol. Abr. 6.—Hussey v. Jacob, Lord Raym. 88.

² Oaste v. Taylor, Cro. Jac. 306, 7.

³ Per Treby, Ch. J. in Bromwich v. Loyd, 2 Lutw. 1585.—Sarsfield v. Witherly, 2 Vent. 295.—Comb. 45. 152. S. C.—Cramlington v. Evans, 2 Ventr. 310.

⁴ Buller v. Crips, 6 Mod. 29.—Anon. Hardr. 485.—Claxton v. Swift, 3 Mod. 86.—Marius. 2.

⁵ Buller v. Crips, 6 Mod. 29.—Pinckney v. Hall, Lord Raym. 175. Erskine v. Murray, id. 1542.—Mannin v. Carey, Lutw. 279.—Pearson v. Garrett, 4 Mod. 242.

whether traders or not¹. And even after the general custom had been established, and it had been adjudged that all persons having capacity to contract, might make them, a distinction was taken with respect to form, between bills made payable to *order*, and bills made payable to *bearer*; for it was once thought, that no action could be maintained on a bill payable to the *order* of a certain person, by that person himself, on the ground that he had only an authority to indorse; and those payable to *bearer* were at first thought not to be negotiable in any case. These distinctions, however, have long been held to be without foundation; and on the whole, as observed by Mr. Justice Blackstone², although formerly Foreign Bills of Exchange were more favourably regarded in the eye of the law than Inland, as being thought of more public concern in the advancement of trade and commerce, yet now, by various judicial decisions, and by two statutes, the 9th and 10th W. 3. c. 17. and the 3d and 4th Anne, c. 9. Inland Bills stand nearly on the same footing as Foreign; and what was the law and custom of merchants with regard to the one, and taken notice of as such, is now by these statutes enacted with regard to the other.

The history, use, &c. of inland bills of exchange.

Besides Inland and Foreign Bills of Exchange, there are two other descriptions of negotiable instruments for the payment of money, viz. Promissory Notes and Cheques on Bankers, and which are transferrable so as to vest the legal right to receive the money in the holder. Most of the rules applicable to Bills of Exchange, equally affect these instruments; their peculiar qualities, and the law affecting them in particular will hereafter be separately considered.

¹ Bromwich v. Loyd, 2 Lutw. 1585,—Sarsfield v. Witherly, Carth. 52.

² Bla. Com. 467.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE PARTIES TO A BILL OF EXCHANGE, &c.

IT is essential to the validity of every contract, that there be proper parties to it, and that those parties have capacity to contract. The parties to a contract are generally only two, namely, the person binding himself to perform some act, and the person in whose favour that act is to be performed: but in the case of bills of exchange, &c. on account of the assignable quality of each, there may be, and usually are, more than two parties. The *capacity* of the contracting parties, or, in other words, who may be concerned in the transaction, will be considered in the first part of this chapter. The *number* of the parties, and the *mode by which they may become such*, will be treated of in the second part.

Sect. 1. Of the capacity of the contracting parties, and who may be parties to a bill.

All persons, if they have capacity to contract, and be not subject to any legal disability, may be parties to a Bill of Exchange¹. In general, contracts with alien enemies are void; but where two British subjects detained prisoners in France, one of them drew a bill in favour of the other on a third British subject, resident in England, and such payee indorsed the same in France to an alien enemy, it was held that the alien right of action was only suspended during the war, and that on the return of peace he might recover the amount from the acceptor².

It appears³, that in France, ecclesiastics were prohibited from being parties to a Bill of Exchange, or from carrying on commerce in any way, on the principle that such transactions were repugnant to the sanctity of their profession; but in this country although clergymen are prohibited by statute⁴, under

¹ Therefore a bill drawn in war by an alien enemy abroad, on a British subject here, and indorsed during war to a British-born subject, spontaneously resident in the hostile country, cannot be enforced by the latter after peace restored, *Willison v. Patteson*, 7 Taunt. 439.

² *Antoine v. Morshead*, 6 Taunt. 237.—1 Marsh. 558. S. C.

³ Poth. *Traité de Change*, pl. 27.

⁴ 21 Hen. 8. c. 13.—43 Geo. 3. c. 84. s. 5.

penalties, from trading or farming; yet the act of being a party to a bill would not constitute a trading within the statute¹; and if it did, as the act is merely prohibitory, the bill itself would be void².

Sect. 1. Of the capacity of the contracting parties.

It was once thought, that as the only reason why Bills of Exchange were suffered to be assigned by one person to another, was, because they were the means of increasing commerce, and facilitating the ends of it, no person who was not a merchant, or engaged in some trade, could be a party to a bill³. It has, however, been long settled, that all persons, having capacity and understanding to contract in general, may be parties to these instruments⁴; and as a person does not make himself a merchant, by drawing or accepting a Bill of Exchange, therefore an attorney does not, by accepting a bill, lose his privilege from arrest and to be sued by bill⁵.

¹ *Hankey v. Jones*, Cowp. 745. This was a case on an issue to try whether the defendant was a trader within the meaning of the bankrupt laws, and also the validity of the petitioning creditors debt. The defendant, a clergyman, had drawn bills for the purpose of raising money for draining certain lands, &c. belonging to him, and had allowed his banker a commission on paying his bills, also other persons for getting them discounted, and had also borrowed accommodation bills, in lieu of which he gave his own bills and notes to the same amount. The court held, that this was not a trading within the true intent and meaning of the bankrupt laws, and Lord Mansfield, said "this case is merely a drawing by a person for the purpose of improving his own estate, and he pays discount on what he draws, and therefore there is no colour for saying he is within the description of the bankrupt laws."

² *Ex parte Meymot*, 1 Atk. 196. The petitioner applied to supersede a commission of bankrupt taken out against him, on the ground, that being a clergyman, he was not liable to the bankrupt laws, the 21 Hen. 8. c. 13. s. 5. was cited in favour of the petitioner. There was no dispute either as to the trading or act of bankruptcy. Per Lord Chancellor, "the statute of 21 Hen. 8. is rather in the nature of a prohibition, and a prohibition will not exempt him from being a bankrupt, for if a man with his eyes open will break the law, that does not make void the contract."

³ *Fairley v. Roch*, Lutw. 891.—*Bromwich v. Loyd*, Lutw. 1585.

⁴ *Sarsfield v. Witherly*, 2 Ventr. 295.—*Comb.* 152.—*Carth.* 82. 1 Show. 125. S. C.—*Hodges v. Steward*, 12 Mod. 36.—1 Salk. 125. S. C.

⁵ *Comerford v. Price*, Dougl. 312. This was an action by original against defendant who was an attorney, as acceptor of a bill of exchange; defendant pleaded in abatement his privilege to be sued by bill, and the plaintiff demurred generally. The case was argued for the plaintiff. Defendant's counsel was stopped by Lord Mansfield, who said, "This case is extremely clear; a man does not make him-

Sect. 1. Of the
capacity of the
contracting par-
ties.
Corporations.

In general, a *corporation* can only contract by deed, under their corporate seal¹; but the Bank of England have power to issue their promissory notes², and notes and bills have been issued by other companies signed by their agent without objection³. A restraint, however, is imposed by the legislature in regard to the mode in which corporations (except the Bank) may draw bills; it having been enacted⁴, “That it shall
“not be lawful for any body politic or corporate what-
“soever, or for any other persons whatsoever, united,
“or to be united in covenants, or partnership exceed-
“ing the number of six persons, in England, to *bor-*
“*row, owe, or take up* any sum or sums of money,
“on their bills, or notes, payable at demand, or at any
“less time than six months from the borrowing
“thereof, during the continuance of the privilege of
“exclusive banking granted to the governor and com-
“pany of the Bank of England.” But this statute does not preclude the members of a commercial firm, although exceeding six in number, from drawing bills at a shorter date than six months⁵.

self a merchant by drawing or accepting a bill of exchange; if there are no cases, it is because the privilege cannot admit of a doubt.”

¹ *Slark v. Highgate Archway Company*, 5 Taunt. 794.—*The King v. the Inhabitants of Chipping Norton*, 5 East. 239.—Bac. Ab. Corporations, E. 3.—*The King v. Bigg*, 3 P. Wms. 432, 4.—*Yarborough v. Bank of England*, 16 East. 11.—3 & 4 Anne, c. 9. s. 3.—1 Chitty on Pleading, 3d ed. 102.

² 15 Geo. 2. c. 13. s. 5.—5 Wm. and Mary, c. 22.—*The King v. Bigg*, 3 P. Wms. 432, 4.—Bac. Ab. Corporations, E. 3.

³ *Edlie v. East India Company*, 2 Burr. 1216.—*Ryall v. Rolle*, 1 Atk. 181.—Watson's Law of Partnership, 1st edit. 53.—Kyd. on Bills, 32.—In *Slark v. Highgate Archway Company*, 5 Taunt. 792 which was an action of assumpsit upon their promissory note in the common form, and indorsed to the plaintiff, it seems to have been considered, that if a corporation is authorized to raise money on promissory notes for a particular purpose, evidence might be received to impeach the notes by shewing they were issued for another purpose; and the court said, that assumpsit would not lie against a corporation, unless the act which authorized the making of promissory notes eo nomine by such corporation ex vi termini, impliedly empowered the corporation to make a promise.

⁴ 6 Ann. c. 22. s. 9.—15 Geo. 2. c. 13. s. 5.

⁵ *Wigan v. Fowler and others*, 1 Starkie N. P. C. 459. This was an action against seven defendants co-partners, not bankers, on their promissory note for £1000, payable three months after date. It was objected by the defendants, that the note was illegal, contrary to the above statute. At the trial, a verdict was found for the plaintiff, and upon motion to set it aside, Lord Ellenborough said, this objection, if

With respect to the *competency* of the contracting parties in general, the law has wisely taken care of the interests of those who either have not judgment to contract, as in the case of *infants*; or who, having judgment to contract, cannot in law have a fund or property to enable them to perform the contract, as in the case of a *feme covert*; and therefore it has, in general, rendered the contracts of infants voidable, and those of married women absolutely void. In general, all contracts made by infants, otherwise than for necessities, which is a relative term depending on their station in life, are voidable by them¹; and a bond in a penalty, or for the payment of interest², and bills of exchange, in the course of trade, and not merely for necessities, are clearly not binding upon them³; and though it has

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Infants.

it were available, would affect the holders right of action in every case where it might be contended that the number of the members of the firm, by which the bill was drawn exceeded six. Such a decision would virtually incapacitate any number of persons exceeding six, from entering into a commercial partnership, to draw bills of exchange; and great inconvenience would result, since it would be incumbent on every person before he took a bill, to inquire whether the firm by which it was drawn consisted of more than six members. The statute must be construed *secundum subjectam materiam*, and it was the manifest object of the legislature in framing this act, to protect the Bank of England against rival Banks. If a commercial partnership be made a mere colour for raising money by the issue of notes, I agree that the case would fall within the prohibition of the statute. Bayley, J. Admitting the case to be within the statute, the note would not be void, and the illegality would affect those only who knew the defect. The intention of the legislature was to protect the Bank of England against other banking companies, and the construction contended for might defeat their remedy in almost every instance in which they discounted bills. Mr. Justice Holroyd expressed the same opinion.

¹ *Hands v. Slaney*, 8 T. R. 578.

² *Fisher v. Mowbray*, 8 East. 330.

³ *Williams v. Harrison*, Carth. 160.—3 Salk. 197.—Sel. Ca. 17. S. C. *Williamson v. Watts*, 1 Campb. 552.—Com. Dig. *Enfant*, C. 2.—In *Williamson v. Harrison* and others, the case was thus:—In an action on the case brought by the plaintiff against the defendants, being merchants, according to the custom of merchants, upon a bill of exchange drawn by them and protested, R. Harrison, one of the defendants, pleaded infancy in bar, &c. And upon a demurrer to this plea, supposing that infancy was no bar to this action, founded on the custom of merchants, the court, without argument, over-ruled the demurrer, for they clearly held, that infancy was a good bar, notwithstanding the custom; for here the infant is a trader, and the bill of exchange was drawn in course of trade, and not for any necessities; so judgment was entered, that the plaintiff nil capiat, per

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been considered, that a single bill or bond for the exact sum due, and not in a penalty given for necessities, is obligatory upon an infant¹, yet an indorsee of a bill or note cannot sue an infant upon either of those instruments, though given for such consideration, and it is as yet undecided, whether, in any case, those instruments are available against infants, even between the original parties². However, a person is liable as

billam v. R. Harrison, and *Holt*, Ch. Justice, cited a case, that where an infant keeps a common inn, yet an action on the case upon the custom of inns, will not lie against him, which is stronger than the principal case.

¹ *Co. Lit.* 172. (a) n. 2.—1 *Roll. Abr.* 729. l. 20.—1 *Lev.* 86.—8 *East.* 330.—*Trueman v. Hurst*, 1 *T. R.* 41.

² It is laid down in *Mr. J. Bayley's Treatise on Bills*, 19, "that an infant cannot make himself responsible for the payment of a bill or note, even when it is given for necessities," and in *Williamson v. Watts*, 1 *Campb.* 552, Sir James Mansfield appears to have considered, that an infant could not be liable as acceptor of a bill, although drawn on account of necessities, the case was this. "Assumpsit on a bill of exchange. Plea, infancy. Replication, that the bill was accepted for necessities, and issue thereupon. When the case was opened, Sir James Mansfield, C. J. said, this action certainly cannot be maintained. The defendant is allowed to be an infant; and did any one ever hear of an infant being liable as acceptor of a bill of exchange? The replication is nonsense, and ought to have been demurred to. As the point of law is so clear, I am strongly inclined to nonsuit the plaintiff; however, if I am required to hear the evidence, I will do so, and the defendant will find redress in the court above, should the verdict be against her. It appeared, that the defendant was a woman of the town, and that the consideration for the acceptance, was the sale of silk stockings and other expensive articles of dress; whereupon Sir J. Mansfield directed a nonsuit.—See also *Selwyn's Ni. Pri.* 4th edit. 287. But in the case of *Trueman v. Hurst*, 1 *T. R.* 40. and *MSS.* the court appear to have been of opinion, that a note given by an infant for necessities is valid. From the manuscript of that case, it appears that the declaration was on a note, whereby the defendant acknowledged himself to be justly indebted to the plaintiff, in the sum of £10, for board and lodgings, and for teaching and instructing the defendant in the business of hair-dressing, and did therefore promise to pay the same to the plaintiff on demand; and after the common counts, there was an account stated. The defendant pleaded infancy to the whole declaration; and the plaintiff replied, that the note was given for necessities, and that the sum mentioned in the other counts were due for necessities; to which replication the defendant demurred; and it was argued for the defendant, that an infant cannot bind himself by a promissory note, even for necessities; that there is a great difference between a single bill and a promissory note, because an action on the first, must be brought in the name of the person to whom it was given, in which case the consideration may be gone into, whereas a promissory note is negotiable. The court desired the counsel for the plaintiff to define

acceptor of a bill of exchange, which was drawn whilst he was an infant, but accepted after he came of age¹; and as the contract of an infant is only voidable, and not absolutely void, he may, by a promise to pay the bill made, after he attains twenty-one, render it as operative against him, as if he had been of age at the time it was made². Such promise, however, must be express; and a bare acknowledgment of the debt is not a sufficient confirmation, nor will a promise to pay a part, or an actual payment of part, create any further liability³. An infant, however, may certainly sue on a bill in his favour⁴.

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A *married woman* cannot be a party to a bill of exchange, promissory note, or other contract, so as to charge herself to liability in a court of law, although she be living apart from her husband, and have a separate maintenance secured to her by deed⁵; and a *feme covert* sole trader in *London* is not liable

Married women.

himself to the objection to the account stated, from which it has been observed, that it may be inferred, that they considered that the action on the note was sustainable, Bayley on Bills, 20, in notes.

In Kyd on Bills, 29, it is urged, that if a single bill for necessities be valid, there seems no reason why a bill or note for the same consideration should not be binding; and a learned author has observed, that the circumstance of a single bill for necessities being valid, seems to afford an argument from analogy, to shew that a promissory note given by an infant for necessities would be binding, if payable only to the person who supplied them, though he cannot be bound by his signature to a negotiable bill or note, as that not only *prima facie* admits the debt and operates as an account stated, but if valid, would render him liable to an action at the suit of an indorsee, in which the amount of the original debt could not be disputed, 1 Campb. 553. notes. And it has been observed in Mr. Holt's Ni. Pri. Cas. 78, 9. that as a promissory note by the stat. of Ann. may be indorsed over, it should seem, that an infant would not be bound by such security, at least not whilst it is in the hands of an indorsee, and in the hands of the person to whom it was originally made payable, it would probably be deemed to have no other qualities than a promissory note before the stat. of Ann, that of being merely evidence of a debt.

¹ Stevens v. Jackson, 4 Campb. 164.

² Taylor v. Croker, 4 Esp. Rep. 187.

³ Dilk v. Keighley, 2 Esp. Rep. 481.—Thupp v. Fielder, 2 Esp. Rep. 628.

⁴ Warwick v. Bruce, 2 M. & S. 205.—6 Taunt. 118.—Kyd. 30.—Bac. Ab. Infants, I. 6.

⁵ Marshall v. Rutton, 8 T. R. 545.

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to be sued as such in the courts at *Westminster* ¹. But sometimes a feme covert is chargeable in equity ²; and where a married woman borrowed money, and gave her promissory note payable on demand, with interest, on a bill filed against the husband and wife, and trustees acting under a marriage settlement, it was decreed, that the debt should be paid out of the rents and profits of the estates, settled to her separate estate ³; so when her husband is in legal consideration dead, as where he is transported, banished, &c. she may contract so as to be liable at law ⁴. And though it has been decided, that if a married woman give a promissory note, and after the death of her husband, promise to pay it in con-

¹ *Beard v. Webb*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 93.

² Vin. Abr. Baron & Feme, N. 3. pl. 4.—2 Ves. sen. 190.—2 P. Wms. 144.—2 New. Rep. 163.—Bac. Abr. Baron & Feme, K.

³ *Bullpin v. Clarke*, 17 Ves. jun. 366. This was a bill filed against Clarke and his wife, and the trustees under the marriage settlement, dated the 2d and 3d May, 1806, previous to the marriage, and vesting several real estates and personal property in the trustees, for the sole and separate use of the wife; and the bill stated, that on the 4th October, 1806, the wife requested the plaintiff to lend her £250, which she promised should be repaid to him with interest, out of her separate property; and the plaintiff knowing that she had such a separate property, accordingly advanced her that sum for her separate use; and she gave him her promissory note for the sum of £250, with lawful interest upon demand, dated the 4th of October, 1806. By a letter from the wife to the plaintiff, in answer to an application for repayment, she acknowledged the debt, and promised to pay it out of her separate estate. The note and the letter were admitted by the answer. Sir Samuel Romilly, for the defendants, contended, that the promissory note was not the execution of a power; an appointment of any part of this settled property, and had no reference to it; constituting merely a debt for a simple contract, and that there was no authority establishing the right of a court of equity to apply the rents and profits of the separate estate of a married woman to the payment of a debt. The decree thereupon directed the trustees to receive the rents and profits of the several estates in the marriage settlement mentioned; that an account should be taken of what was due to the plaintiff, for principal, interest, and costs, upon the note of the wife; and that the trustees should pay to him what should be found due, in respect of such principal, interest, and costs, out of such rents and profits; that they should account annually for the rents and profits, and pay to the plaintiff the balance which should from time to time be reported due, until the principal, interest, and costs shall be fully paid.

⁴ *De Gaillon v. L'Aigle*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 358, 9.—*Carrol v. Blencow*, 4 Esp. 27.

consideration of forbearance, such promise is void; yet if the wife had a separate estate secured to her, at the time she gave the note, the promise may be enforced at law¹. If a bill or promissory note be made to a feme sole, and she afterwards marry, being possessed of the note, the property vests in the husband, and he alone can indorse the same²; and if such instrument be made payable to a feme covert, the legal interest vests in the husband, and he alone can indorse the same, though the wife might join him in an action³. And where a note was given by the defendant to a married woman, knowing her to be such, with intent that she should indorse it to the plaintiff, in payment of a debt, which she owed him in the course of carrying on a trade, in her own name, by the consent of her husband; yet it was held, that the property in the note vested in the husband, and that no interest passed by an indorsement in her name to the plaintiff⁴. But in another case, where on the note being presented for payment, the defendant promised to pay the indorsee of the wife, who passed and indorsed by a name different from her husband, and with his knowledge, the jury

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¹ Lloyd v. Lee, 1 Stra. 94.—Lee v. Muggeridge, 5 Taunt. 36.

² Connor v. Martin, cited 3 Wils. 5.

³ Philliskirk et Ux v. Pluckwell, 2 M. & S. 393.

⁴ Barlow v. Bishop, 1 East, 432.—3 Esp. Rep. 266. S. C. Ann Parry was a married woman, carrying on trade in her own name with the consent of her husband. She became in the course of such trade indebted to the plaintiff, and to enable her to pay him, defendant, who knew that she was married, gave her a note, payable to her or order for the amount of the debt; she indorsed it in her own name to plaintiff, and he brought this action. Lord Kenyon, at the trial, thought it not maintainable, and saved the point, and after a rule for a nonsuit and cause shewn, said it was clear, that the delivery of the note to the wife vested the property in the husband; that as he permitted her to trade on her own account, and this was a transaction in the course of that trade, he was not prepared to say, that if she had indorsed the note in his name, that that would not have availed: and the jury might have presumed an authority from her husband for that purpose. But the indorsement being in her own name, it was quite impossible that it could pass away the interest of her husband by it.—Rule absolute.

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Effect of incapacity as to other parties.

were directed to infer an authority to make such indorsement¹.

Except in the instance of an indorsement by a feme covert, it seems, that although a bill, &c., be drawn, indorsed, or accepted, by a person, incapable of binding himself, it will nevertheless be valid against all other competent parties². Therefore, if a husband indorse a note, by which his wife promised to pay him a sum of money as between him and the indorsee, it is certainly good³, and as infancy is a personal privilege, of which the infant alone can avail himself; the drawer or acceptor of a bill, cannot set up the infancy of the indorser as a defence to the action⁴, and it is reported to have been decided, that where a bill drawn and indorsed by an infant to a third person, who indorsed the same to the plaintiff had been misappropriated by the first indorsee, in fraud of such drawers, and they had therefore demanded the bill from the plaintiff, that circumstance afforded no defence in an action against the acceptors, because it would materially injure the circulation of bills, if such facts were to be enquired into⁵.

Sect. 2. Of the number of the parties, and mode by which they may become such.

Bills of Exchange differ from most other contracts in the circumstance of there being frequently more than two parties to them; a bill has indeed, previously to its being transferred, generally three parties, namely, the person making it, who is called the *drawer*, the

¹ Cotes v. Davis, 1 Campb. 485. Action by indorsee, against maker of promissory note, payable to Mrs. Carter or order, and indorsed by her in her own name. The note, when due, with the indorsement thereon, was presented by a notary to defendant, who said it should be paid in a few days; defendant now offered to prove, that Mrs. Carter was the wife of one Cole, who was still living. Lord Ellenborough said, the jury might presume, that her husband authorized her to indorse notes by the name in which she herself passed in the world, and that the defendant was estopped from contesting her authority for this indorsement. Verdict for plaintiff. See also Doe ex dem. Leicester & another v. Biggs, 1 Taunt. 367.

² Poth. pl. 29.—Haly v. Lane, 2 Atk. 182.

³ Haly v. Lane, 2 Atk. 181.

⁴ Haly v. Lane, 2 Atk. 182. and see the general principle, Holt v. Clarencieux, 2 Stra. 937.—Warwick v. Bruce, 2 M. & S. 205.—6 Taunt. 118.

⁵ Taylor v. Croker, 4 Esp. Rep. 187. sed quare.

person to whom it is directed, who before acceptance is called the *drawee*, and afterwards, the *acceptor*, and the person, in whose favour it is made, who is called the *payee*. It is not, however, necessary that there should be three parties to a bill; there are sometimes only two; as where a person draws a bill on another, payable to his own order; and indeed a bill will be valid, where there is only one party to it, for a man may draw on himself payable to his own order¹. In such case it is said that the instrument in legal operation is rather a note² than a bill³; however, in practice it is usual to declare upon the instrument as if it were a bill, not admitting the identity of the drawer and drawee⁴, and if accepted, the defendant may be charged in one count as the drawer, and in another as acceptor, and in a third as the maker of a promissory note. And an instrument in the common form of a bill of exchange, except that the word *at*

Sect. 2. Of the number, &c. of the parties.

¹ *Ex parte Parr*, 18 Ves. jun. 69. Per Lord Eldon, "It is said by the counsel, that the house at Liverpool was partner with the other house at Demerara; but it has been established above thirty years, that the same persons may be both drawers and acceptors, as constituting different firms."

Starke v. Cheesman, Carth. 509. Christopher Cheesman, being in Virginia, drew a bill on Christopher Cheesman in Ratcliff, London, which in truth was upon himself, and the plaintiff declared, that defendant drew a bill payable after sight, and directed the same to Christopher Cheesman in Ratcliff, and then averred that the drawee was not found, and thereupon the bill was protested, and the defendant as drawer became chargeable. The defendant suffered judgment by default, and moved in arrest of judgment; but made no objection, on the ground, that the bill was drawn by the drawer upon himself, though other objections were taken, and the plaintiff had judgment.

Dehors v. Harriot, 1 Show. 163. A. drew a bill payable by himself in Dublin; an action was afterwards brought thereon, and no objection being taken on this account, plaintiff recovered.

Robinson v. Bland, Barr. 1077. The defendant being at Paris, drew a bill on himself in London, the consideration was partly for money lost at play in Paris, and partly money lent at the time and place of play, and upon that ground, a case was reserved for the opinion of the Court; but no objection was made that the defendant drew the bill upon himself.

Jocelyn v. Lasserre, Fort. 282. Per Eyre, J. It is not necessary to have three persons to make a good bill of exchange. A man may draw a bill upon himself.

² Bayl. 21.

³ See cases in note², supra.

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number, &c. of
the parties:

is substituted for *to*, before the name of the drawees, may be declared on as a bill of exchange, and if refused acceptance, the drawer may immediately be sued, or, as it seems, it might be declared on as a promissory note, after it is due¹. So though hus-

¹ *Shuttleworth v. Stephens*, 1 Campb. 407. Declaration in common form, as upon a bill of exchange, drawn by defendant on Messrs. John Morson and Co. payable to John Jenkins, and indorsed to him by the plaintiff. In support of the action, a paper-writing, of which the following is a copy, was given in evidence:—

21st October, 1804.

Two Months after date, pay to the Order of John Jenkins £78:11s. value received.

Tho. Stephens.

At Messrs. John Morson and Co.

Lord Ellenborough held, that this was properly declared on as a bill of exchange, and that Messrs. Morson and Co. might be considered as the drawees, although perhaps it might have been treated as a promissory note, at the option of the holder.

Allen v. Mawson, 4 Campb. 115. The plaintiff declared as indorsee, against the defendant, as drawer of a bill of exchange, alleged to have been dishonoured for non-acceptance. The instrument given in evidence, was in the following form:—

£40.

Bradford, August 2d, 1814.

Two Months after date, pay to Mr. Lewis Alexander or Order, Forty Pounds, value received.

George Mawson.

at Sir John Perring, Shaw, Barber, and Co.
Bankers, London.

The word *at* was in very small letters, inclosed in the hook of the following S. This instrument was drawn in Yorkshire, and being remitted to the plaintiff, who was an attorney in London, he presented it for acceptance, to Perring and Co., and as they refused to accept it, he immediately gave notice of its dishonour to the defendant, and commenced an action against him. The question was, whether the plaintiff had a right to treat this instrument as a bill of exchange. Gibbs, C. J. upon the authority of the above case, I should not have hesitated to decide, that in point of law this instrument is a bill of exchange, had the word *at* been distinctly written before the names of the drawees; but I shall leave it to the Jury, whether the word "*at*" from the manner in which it was written, was not inserted for the purpose of deception, and then the instrument is a bill of exchange in point of fact. The *at* being struck out, it is in the common form in which bills of exchange are drawn. The defendant says, Two Months after date, pay to; this is not a promise to pay; but a request to third persons, to pay. I cannot receive evidence of the manner in which such instruments are considered in Yorkshire. The defendant in contemplation of law, issued it in London, where the plaintiff received it, he took it to be a bill of exchange, as almost any other person in London would have done. I can see no motive for drawing an instrument in this form, except to deceive the public. If such instruments, have been common in the country, they ought not to be continued or endured. The plaintiff did well in immediately commencing the action, when

band and wife are in legal consideration one person, and though a note given by a married woman to her husband is void, yet if he endorse it over to a third person as between the husband and the indorsee, the note is certainly good¹. Various inconveniencies, however, may arise, from the same person becoming a party to a bill or note in different capacities, viz. as drawer, and also as second endorser, &c.²

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It is by *transfer* of a bill of exchange from one person to another, when it is negotiable, that the parties may become numerous; in which case, if the transfer be by indorsement, the person making it is called the *indorser*; the person in whose favour the transfer is made, the *indorsee*; and in all cases, the person in possession of the bill is called the *holder*.

The drawer, acceptor, indorser, and holder, are the principal, and *immediate* parties to the instrument; but besides them, a person may become a party to it in a *collateral* way³; as where the drawee refuses to accept, any third party, after protest for non-acceptance, may accept for the honour of the bill, generally, or of the drawer, or of any particular indorser, in which case the acceptance is called an acceptance *supra protest*, and the person making it is styled the acceptor for the *honour* of the person, on whose account he comes forward; and he acquires certain rights, and

Perring and Co. refused to accept the bill. The jury found the insertion of the "at" to be fraudulent, and the plaintiff recovered.

¹ Per Ld. Hardwicke, in *Haly v. Lane*, 2 Atk. 181.

² *Mainwaring v. Newman*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 120.—*Bishop v. Hayward*, 4 T. R. 470. — *Porthouse v. Parker and others*, 1 Campb. 82.—*Ex parte Parr*, 18 Ves. 65.—*Davison v. Robertson*, 3 Dow. 229, 230. As to fictitious bills, see post.

Bishop v. Hayward, 4 T. R. 470. was a declaration on a promissory note, stated to have been made by one Collins, payable to plaintiff or order, and afterwards indorsed by him to defendant, who re-indorsed it to plaintiff. The court, upon motion, arrested the judgment; and per Buller, J. the consequence of supporting this judgment would be, that the plaintiff, without having any real demand on defendant, might recover against him, by the judgment of the court, without allowing the defendant a possibility of defending himself.

³ *Poth. pl. 25, 26.*

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subjects himself to nearly the same obligations, as if the bill had been directed to him. A person may also become party to the instrument by *paying it supra protest*, either for the *honour* of the drawer or indorsers. The right and obligations, attached to this collateral mode of becoming party to a bill will be spoken of hereafter.

Mode of becoming
a party.

With respect to the *mode of becoming party* to any one of these instruments, it is a general rule, that no person can be considered as a party to a bill, unless his name, or the name of the firm of which he is a partner, appear on some part of it¹; however, a person may become drawer, indorser, or acceptor, not only by his own immediate act, but also by that of his *agent* or *partner*.

By act of agent.

It is a general rule of law, that whenever a person has a power, as owner, to do a thing, he may consequently, as incident to his right, do it *by attorney or agent*². Hence it is clear that a person may draw, accept, or indorse a bill by his agent, as well as by himself³. In these cases, he is said to draw, accept, and indorse by *procuration*⁴. As this agency is a mere *ministerial* office, infants, feme coverts, persons attainted, outlawed, excommunicated, aliens, and others, though incapable of contracting on their own account, so as to bind themselves, may be agents for these purposes⁵.

With respect to the *manner of their appointment*, it is said⁶ that there ought to be a formal power of attorney; but this is by no means necessary; for the

¹ Per Buller, J. in *Fenn v. Harrison*, 3 T. R. 760.—*Siffkin v. Walker* and another, 2 Campb. 308.—*Emly v. Lye* and another, 15 East. 7, 11.

² *Combe's Case*, 9 Co. 75. b.—Kynd. 32.

³ *Molloy*, b. 2. c. 10. s. 27.—*Ward v. Evans*, Lord Raym. 930.—6 Mod. 36. S. C. — *v. Harrison*, 12 Mod. 346.—Anonymous, id. 564.—*Usher v. Dauncey* and another, 4 Campb. 97. *et vide* 3 and 4 Anne, c. 9. s. 1.

⁴ *Beawes*, pl. 83.—Kynd. 33.

⁵ Co. Lit. 52. a.

⁶ *Beawes*, pl. 86.—*Marius*, 2d ed. p. 104.

authority which an agent has, to draw, indorse, and By act of agent, accept bills, in the name of his principal, may be, and indeed most usually is, by parol¹.

As to the *extent of the agent's authority*, if a person be appointed a *general agent*, as in the case of a factor for a merchant residing abroad, the principal is bound by all his acts; but an agent, constituted so for a particular purpose, and under a *limited and circumscribed power*, cannot bind the principal by any act exceeding his authority². Therefore, where A. desired B. to get a bill discounted for him, but declared that he would not indorse, it was decided³, that no representation of B. could bind A. as an indorser, though it was insisted that what B. had done, was within the scope of his employment, which was to raise money on the bill, and that a subsequent promise to pay was inoperative. It appearing, however, on a second trial, that A. did not declare that he would not indorse it, it was adjudged, that as he had authorised B. to get the bill discounted, without restraining his authority, as to the mode of doing it, he was bound by his acts⁴.

¹ Per Lord Eldon, in *Davison v. Robertson*, 3 Dow. Rep. 229.—*Porthouse v. Parker*, 1 Campb. 82. and per Holt, C. J. in *Anonymous*, 12 Mod. 564.—*Harrison v. Jackson*, 7 T. R. 209.—*The King v. Bigg*, 3 P. Wms. 432.—*Bac. Ab. Corporations*, E. 3.—*Bayl.* 226.—*Payley Prin. & Agent*, 117. and see 3 and 4 Ann. c. 9.

² Per Buller, J. in *Fenn v. Harrison*, 3 T. R. 757.—*East India Company v. Hensley*, 1 Esp. Rep. 111.

³ Dissente Kenyon, C. J.

⁴ *Fenn v. Harrison*, 3 T. R. 757.—4 T. R. 177.—The defendants employed F. H. to get a bill discounted, but said that they would not indorse it; F. H. employed his brother J. H. and said he would indemnify him if he would indorse it. J. H. indorsed it, and the plaintiffs discounted it. The bill being dishonoured, the plaintiffs applied to the defendants, who promised to take it up, but did not, and this action for money had and received, and money paid, was brought against them. Lord Kenyon told the jury, that if they thought that J. H. had made himself answerable as the agent of the defendants, that was sufficient consideration for their promise. A verdict was found for the plaintiffs, and on a rule nisi for a new trial and cause shewn, Lord Kenyon inclined to think the verdict right, because, though the agent had exceeded his authority, he thought the principal bound by what he did, but the other Judges differed, because F. H. was a particular agent only, and the rule was made absolute. On the next trial it did not appear that the defendants had told

By act of agent: Upon the question what is a *general* authority, it has been decided, that a person signing his name on a blank stamped piece of paper, and delivering it to I. S. authorizes I. S. to insert any sum which the amount of the stamp will warrant¹. It has also been held², that a letter of attorney, given by an executor to A. B. authorizing him to transact the affairs of the testator, in the name of the executor, as executor, and to pay, discharge, and satisfy all debts due from the testator, conveys to A. B. a sufficient authority to accept a bill of exchange in the name of the executor, drawn by a creditor for the amount of a debt due from the testator, and thereby to make the executor

F. H. that they would *not* indorse the bill, a verdict was found for the plaintiffs; and on a rule nisi for a new trial, and cause shewn, the whole court thought the verdict right; because, as F. H. was not restrained as to the mode of getting the bill discounted, the defendants were bound by his acts; but Buller and Grose, Js, said, that if the facts had been the same, they should have continued of their former opinion. Rule discharged. See observations on this case, Bayl. 168, 9. Pal. on Prin. and Agent, 124, 5. 138. 146. See also Helyear v. Hawke, 5 Esp. 75.—Alexander v. Gibson, 2 Campb. 555.

¹ Collis v. Emmet, 1 Hen. Bla. 313. Emmet signed his name on a blank paper, stamped with a shilling bill stamp, (the highest stamp then in force for bills,) and delivered it to Livessay and Co. that they might draw such bill thereon as they should please; they drew one for £1551 at three months date, which was duly transferred to Collis and Co., and Collis and Co. sued Emmet thereon. A special verdict was found, principally with a view to another point, and the Court held Emmet answerable, and the plaintiffs had judgment.

Russell v. Langstaffe, Dougl. 496. 514. The defendant, to accommodate one Galley, indorsed his name on five copper-plate checks, made in the form of promissory notes, but in blanks, without any sums, dates, or times of payment being mentioned therein, and delivered them to Galley; Galley filled them up as he thought fit, and the plaintiff discounted them; the plaintiff knew the notes were blank at the time of the indorsement; Galley not paying them when they became due, plaintiff brought this action. Hotham, B. before whom the cause was tried, was of opinion, that as the notes were incomplete when the defendant indorsed them, no subsequent act of Galley could make them otherwise, because that would alter the effect of the defendant's indorsement, and he accordingly directed a verdict for the defendant; but upon application for a new trial, and cause shewn, Lord Mansfield said, "Nothing is so clear as that the indorsement on a blank note is a letter of credit for an indefinite sum; the defendant said, trust Galley to any amount and I will be his surety, it does not lie in his mouth to say the indorsements were not regular." See also Snaith v. Mingay, 1 M. & S. 87.—Crutchley v. Mann, 5 Taunt. 529.—1 Marsh. 29. S. C.—Crutchley v. Clarence, 2 M. & S. 90.

² Howard v. Baillie, 2 Hen. Bla. 618.

personally liable, on the ground that an authority By act of agent. of this nature necessarily includes all intermediate powers, that is to say, all the means necessary to be used in order to effect the accomplishment of the object of the principal, namely, the paying, satisfying, and discharging the testator's debts. But in another case¹ which was upon the same letter of attorney, the court, after consulting with the Judges of C. P., determined that the executor was not personally liable, and that a power of attorney, given by an executrix, to act for her as an executrix, does not authorize the attorney to accept bills to charge her in her own right, though for debts due from her testator. So in a late case it was decided, that where one gives a power of attorney to another, to demand and receive all monies due to him, on any account whatsoever, and to use all means for the recovery thereof, and to appoint attornies for the purpose of bringing actions, and to revoke the same, "*and to do all other business;*" the latter words must be understood with reference to the former, as meaning all business appertaining thereto; and although the attorney may receive monies due, to the principal in *auter droit*, yet he cannot under this power indorse a bill for him, which comes to his hands². It has also been held, that a power of attorney to receive all salaries and money, with all the principal's authority to recover, compound, and discharge, and to give releases and appoint substitutes, does not authorize the attorney to negotiate bills received in payment, nor to indorse them in his own name; nor can evidence of an usage at the navy office, to pay bills, indorsed by the attorney in his own name, and negotiated by him, under such a power, be received to enlarge the operation of the power³.

¹ *Gardner v. Baillie*, 6 T. R. 591.—*Kilgour v. Finlyson*, 1 Hen. Bl. 155.

² *Hay v. Goldsmid*, 2 Smith's Rep. 79, 80.

³ *Hog v. Spaith and others*, 1 Taunt. 347.

By act of agent.

An authority may also be *implied* and inferred from prior conduct of the principal, for a special authority is not necessary to constitute a power to draw, indorse, or accept by procuration, but the law may infer an authority from the general nature of certain acts permitted to be done, and usual employ is evidence of a general authority¹; and therefore, if a person has upon a former occasion, in the principal's absence, usually accepted bills for him, and the latter on his return approved thereof, he would be bound in a similar situation on a second absence from home²; and if a drawee of a bill has previously paid several bills accepted in his name by a third person with whom he had connections in trade, he would be liable to an indorsee though such bill has been accepted without his authority³; and it has been held, that if a person usually subscribes an instrument with the name of another, proof of his having done so in many instances, is sufficient to charge him whose name is subscribed, without producing any power of attorney⁴. And we have seen, that where a married woman is permitted by her husband to carry on trade on her own account, and in her own name indorses a bill or note, received in the course of such trade, an authority may be presumed from the husband⁵. It has also been decided, that a subsequent assent will make the act of

¹ Per Lord Eldon, in *Davison v. Robertson*, 3 Dow. 229.—*Malynes*, B. 3. c. 5. s. 6. page 264.—*Bayl.* 226.

² *Beawes*, pl. 86.—*Mar.* 2d ed. 135.

³ *Barber v. Gingell*, 3 Esp. N. P. C. 60. In an action against the defendant as acceptor of a bill, he proved that the acceptance was forged by Taylor the drawer; in answer to which it was proved that the defendant had been connected in business with Taylor, and that he had paid several bills drawn as the present by Taylor, and to which Taylor (as it was supposed) had written the acceptances in the defendant's name. And Lord Kenyon held, that this was an answer to the case of forgery set up by the defendant, for though he might not have accepted the bill, he had adopted the acceptance, and thereby made himself liable to pay the bill. Verdict for plaintiff.

⁴ *Neal v. Erving*, 1 Esp. Rep. 61.—*Haughton v. Ewbank*, 4 Campb. 188.

⁵ *Cotes v. Davis*, 1 Campb. 485.—*Barlow v. Bishop*, 1 East. 434.

an agent binding on the principal¹; and though a promise alone to pay a bill endorsed by an agent would not support an action if the indorsement were contrary to authority, yet if the authority is doubtful, such a promise is decisive². A general authority to an agent is supposed to continue until its determination is generally known, and therefore, after the discharge of a clerk or agent usually employed to draw, accept, or indorse bills or notes, the employer will be bound by his signature, made after the determination of his authority, until the discharge be generally known³. When, therefore, the authority of such an agent has been determined, or he has been discharged from his employ, and there is reason to apprehend that he will attempt to circulate bills in the name of his employer, it is advisable for the latter to give notice of the determination of the authority in the Gazette, and also to all his correspondents individually, notice in the Gazette not being in general sufficient to affect a former customer, unless he has had express notice thereof⁴. As the authority of an agent is not coupled with an interest, he cannot delegate it, so as to enable another person to act for his principal⁵; if, however,

¹ Ward v. Evans, Lord Raym. 930.—2 Salk. 442. S. C.—Boulton v. Hillesden, Comb. 450.—12 Mod. 564.—Bayl. 226.—Payley, 124. 126, 7. 211. *accord*.—Fenn v. Harrison, 3 T. R. 757.—Howard v. Baillie, 2 Hen. Bla. 618. *semb. contra.* and see post, 42 & 44, in notes.

² Fenn v. Harrison, 4 T. R. 177.—Payley, 124, 5.

³ Beawes, pl. 231.—Molloy, B. 2. c. 10. s. 27. page 107.—Payley, 123, 4. 136.—Bayl. 226.—Anonymous v. Harrison, 12 Mod. 346.—A servant had power to draw bills of exchange in his master's name, and afterwards is turned out of the service. Holt, C. J. If he draw a bill in so little time after that the world cannot take notice of his being out of service, or if he were a long time out of his service, but that kept so secret that the world cannot take notice of it, the bill in those cases shall bind the master.

Monk v. Clayton, Molloy, 282. cited in Nickson v. Broham, 10 Mod. 110. A servant of Sir Robert Clayton, who had been used to receive and pay money, took up 200 guineas after he had quitted the service, and the lender recovered against Sir R. Clayton, by the direction of Keeling, C. J. which was approved by the whole court on a motion for a new trial.

⁴ See post, 47, 8, cases of partners.

⁵ Combe's case, 9 Co. 75.—1 Rol. Ab. 330.

By act of agent. an express authority be given for that purpose he may exercise it¹.

When a person has authority, as agent, to draw, accept, or indorse a bill for his principal, he should either write the name of his principal, or state in writing, that he draws, &c. as agent, or expressly qualify the act, by stipulating in writing on the bill that he is not to be personally liable; for otherwise the act will not in general be binding on the principal², though in some cases an informal mode of executing an authority will not vitiate³. And if a person draw, indorse, or accept, in his own name, without stating that he acts as agent, he will be personally liable⁴,

¹ *Palliser v. Ord*, Bunb. 166.

² *Wilks v. Back*, 2 East. 142.—*Barlow v. Bishop*, 1 East. 434.—*3 Esp. Rep.* 266. S. C.—*White v. Cuyler*, 6 T. R. 176.—*Combe's case*, 9 Co. 75.—*Frontin v. Small*, 2 Stra. 705.—*Com. Dig. Attorney*, C. 14.—*Beawes*, pl. 83, 4, 5, 6, 7.

³ *Coles v. Davis*, 1 Campb. 485, 6.—*Mason v. Rumsey*, 1 Campb. 384.

⁴ *Thomas v. Bishop*, 2 Stra. 955.—*Rep. Temp. Hardw.* 3. S. C.—*Le Fevre v. Lloyd*, 5 Taunt. 749.—1 Marsh. 318. S. C.—*Goupy v. Harden*, 2 Marsh. 454. and *Holt*, C. N. P. 342. S. C.—*Appleton v. Binks*, 5 East. 148.—*De Gaillon v. L'Aigle*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 368.—*Macheath v. Haldimand*, 1 T. R. 181.—*Poth.* pl. 118.—*Thomas v. Bishop*, 2 Stra. 955. Ca. Temp. Hardw. 1. S. C. The plaintiff was indorsee of a bill of exchange, drawn from Scotland upon the defendant, in these words, "At thirty days sight pay to J. S. or order, £200, value received of him, and place the same to account of the York Building's Company, as per advice from Charles Mildmay; to Mr. Humphrey Bishop, cashier of the York Building's Company, at their house in Winchester Street, London. Accepted per H. Bishop." The bill not having been paid, an action was brought against defendant upon his acceptance; at the trial he proved that the letter of advice was addressed to the Company; and that the bill having been brought to their house, defendant was ordered to accept it, which he did in the same manner as he had accepted other bills. Page, J. directed the jury to find for the plaintiff, which they did accordingly. On motion for a new trial, the court held the direction right; "for the bill on the face of it imported to be drawn on the defendant, and it was accepted by him generally, and not as servant to the Company, to whose account he had no right to charge it until actual payment by himself. And this being an action by an indorsee, it would be of dangerous consequence to trade to admit evidence arising from extrinsic circumstances, as the letter of advice. And this differed widely from the case of a bill addressed to the master and underwritten by the servant; where undoubtedly the servant would not be liable, but his acceptance would be considered as the act of the master. A bill of exchange is a contract by the custom of merchants, and the whole of that contract must appear in writing. In this case there was nothing in writing to bind the Company, nor could any action be maintained against them upon the bill; for the addition of cashier

unless in the case of an agent contracting on the behalf of government'. By act of agent.

With respect to the duty and liability of agents in relation to bills and notes, it has been well observed, that an agent employed in negotiating bills of exchange is bound; first, to endeavour to procure acceptance; secondly, on refusal to protest for non-acceptance; thirdly, to advise the remitter of the receipt, acceptance, or protesting; and fourthly, to advise any third person that is concerned; and all this without any delay². Losses occasioned by the fraud or failure of third persons to whom an agent has given credit pursuant to the regular and accustomed practice of trade, are not chargeable upon him³. And therefore, where the receiver of Lord Plymouth's estate took bills in the country of persons who at the time were reputed to be of credit and substance in order to return the rents in London; the bills were dishonoured and the money lost, and yet the steward was held to be excused⁴; and if a trustee appoints rents to be paid to a banker at that time in credit, and the banker afterwards breaks, the trustee is not answerable. And it has been observed, that none of these cases are on account of necessity, but because the

to defendant's name was only to denote the person with certainty; the direction to whose account to place it was for the use of the drawee only." Judgment for the plaintiff.

Le Fevre v. Lloyd, 5 Taunt. 749.—1 Marsh. 318. S. C. If a broker, who being employed to sell goods, procures a purchaser, and himself draws a bill on him for the amount payable to the principal, and which is accepted by the purchaser, but dishonoured, the broker, as drawer, is liable to be sued on the bill by such payee; and by the court, "The broker, by giving this bill, put an end to all doubt as to the buyer's responsibility. The vendors, upon receiving it, in consequence of the good opinion of the defendant, dismiss from their minds all care about the solvency of the purchaser."

Goupy v. Harden, 2 Marsh. 454.—Holt, C. N. P. 342. S. C. Bills are drawn by a house in London on a house in Lisbon, and indorsed to A. in London. A. indorses them without any qualification, to B. at Paris.—Held that A. was bound to B. by this indorsement, and could not offer evidence to shew that he was acting merely as B.'s agent.

¹ *Macbeath v. Haldimand*, 1 T. R. 172.—*Unwin v. Wolseley*, id. 674.—*Myrtle v. Beaver*, 1 East. 135.—*Rice v. Chute*, id. 579.

² *Beaves*, 431.—*Payley*, 4 & 5. 34.

³ *Russell v. Hanky*, 6 T. R. 12.—*Payley*, 37, 8.

⁴ *Knight v. Lord Plymouth*, 3 Atk. 480.

By act of agent. persons acted in the usual method of business¹. So in an action for money had and received, the facts were, that the plaintiff had engaged the defendant, as his agent, to receive money due to him from his customers, directing him to remit by the post, a bill for these and other sums due to him. A bill was accordingly remitted to him by the post, but the letter was suppressed, and the money upon the bill received at the banker's by some unknown person, and was not recovered. Lord Kenyon said, "had no direction been given about the mode of remittance, still, this being done in the usual way of transacting business of this nature, I should have held the defendant clearly discharged, from the money received as agent. It was so determined in Chancery forty years ago²." However, it may be collected from a case recently decided in Chancery, that if an agent place his principal's money to his own account with his general banker, without any mark by which it may be specified as belonging to the trust, and the banker fail, the agent will not be excused, because he cannot so deal with his principal's money, as that if the banker's solvency continue, he may be in a condition to treat it as his own, and if insolvency happen, he may escape by considering it as belonging to his principal³. And a loss occasioned by any unauthorised disposal or adventure of the principal's money, and not prescribed by the usage of business, though intended for his benefit, is chargeable to the agent⁴; and therefore where A. in London, consigned goods to the firm of B. and C. at Hamburg for sale upon a del credere commission, and B. in London made advances to A. to be repaid out of the proceeds, and B. and C. with the proceeds purchase bills for A. which they transmitted to B. in

¹ Ex parte Parsons, Ambl. 219. and see 1 Br. Ch. R. 452.—3 Ves. jun. 566.—6 Ves. jun. 226. 266.—5 Ves. jun. 331. 839. and see Warwick v. Noakes, Peake Rep. 68.

² Peake, Ni. Pri. Cas. 68. Warwick v. Noakes.

³ 11 Ves. jun. 382. Wren v. Kirton.

⁴ Payley, 39.

London, specially indorsed to him, and these bills, By act of agent. whilst they were in B.'s hands were dishonoured, it was held that B. and C. must bear the loss¹. On the other hand, in general, whatever profit an agent may derive from dealing with bills, the property of his principal, belong to his principal, and therefore where the master of a ship in a foreign port, from the state of the exchange, received a premium for a bill drawn upon England on account of the ship, it was held, that this belonged to his owner, although there may have been a usage for masters of ships to appropriate such premiums to their own use². Where a person holds bills, as agent for another, and a third person sues him for the same, he may, by resorting to a Court of Equity, compel the two claimants to litigate the claim, without involving him in the expence of resisting two suits; and a bill of interpleader has been sustained upon bills of exchange, received by the plaintiff as agent, to procure payment for his principal in Scotland, to whom they had been remitted, against an order for goods, pursued in an action of trover by such principal, and also by attachment in Scotland by a creditor of the principal³.

With respect to a person becoming party to a bill, By act of partner. *by the act of his partner*, it is observable, that although in general one joint-tenant, or person jointly interested with another, in real or personal property, is not capable by himself, of doing any act which may tend to prejudice the other⁴; yet by the custom of merchants, long established as law, if one partner draw, accept, or indorse a bill or note, in the name, or as on the behalf of the firm, such act will render all the partners liable to a bona fide holder, although the other partners were ignorant of the transaction, and were even inten-

¹ *Lucas and others v. Groning and others*, 1 Stark. 391.

² *Diplock v. Blackburn*, 3 Campb. 43.—*Thompson v. Havelock*, 1 Campb. 527.—*Payley on Prin. & Agent*, 41.—1 Ves. 83.—*Chitty's Law of Apprentices*, 67, 8, 9.

³ *Stevenson v. Anderson*, 2 Ves. & B. 407.

⁴ *Offit v. Ward*, 1 Lev. 234.—*Tooker's case*, 2 Co. 67.—*Lingan v. Payn, Bridgm.* 129.—*Bac. Ab. Joint-tenant*, H. 3.

By act of partner. tionally defrauded by their partner¹. By entering into the partnership each party reposes confidence in the other, and constitutes him his general agent as to all the partnership concerns, and it would be a great impediment to commerce, if in the ordinary transactions of their trade it were necessary that the actual consent of each partner should be obtained, or that it should be ascertained that the transaction was really for the benefit of the firm; hence the act of one, when it has the appearance of being on behalf of the firm, is considered as the act of the rest, and whenever a bill is drawn, accepted, or indorsed, by one of several partners, as on behalf of the firm, during the existence of the partnership, and it gets into the hands of a bona fide holder, the partners are liable to him, though in truth one partner only negotiated the bill for his own peculiar benefit without the consent of his co-partners²,

¹ See the older cases, *Pinckney v. Hall*, 1 Salk. 126.—Lord Raym. 175. S. C.—*Smith v. Jarves*, Lord Raym. 1484.— — *v. Layfield*, 1 Salk. 292.—*Anon. Sty.* 370.—*Harrison v. Jackson*, 7 T. R. 207. *Anon.* 12 Mod. 345.—*Lane v. Williams*, 2 Vern. 277. Id. 292. S. C. *Bac. Ab. Merchant, C.*—*Vin. Ab. Partners, A.*—*Watson*, 195; and the more recent cases, *Sheriff v. Wilkes*, 1 East. 48.—*Swan v. Steele*, 7 East. 210.—*Ridley v. Taylor*, 13 East. 175.—*Ex parte Bonbonus*, 8 Ves. jun. 542.—*Ex parte Gardom*, 15 Ves. jun. 286. and see *Bayl.* 55. 74, 5.—*Selw. N. P.* 289. But the implied authority of a partner does not enable him to execute deeds in the name of the firm, *Ball v. Dunsterville*, 4 T. R. 313.—*Harrison v. Jackson*, 7 T. R. 207.—*Holt. C. N. P.* 143. And the decisions are contradictory upon the question, whether one partner can give a *guarantee* for the debt of a third person, so as to bind the other without his authority, *Ex parte Gardom*, 15 Ves. jun. 286. *acc.* *Duncan v. Lowndes and another*, 3 Campb. 478. *contra.* An executor who after the death of one of several partner, continues to receive his share for the benefit of infants, is liable on a bill issued by the firm, although his name does not appear in the firm, *Wightman v. Townroe and another*, 1 M. & S. 412.

² Admitted in *Sheriff v. Wilkes*, 1 East. 48.—Decided in *Swan v. Steele*, 7 East. 210.—3 Smith's Rep. 199. S. C.—*Ridley v. Taylor*, 13 East. 175.—*Baker v. Charlton*, Peake. 80.—*Lane v. Williams*, 2 Vern. 277. *Arden v. Sharpe*, 2 Esp. Rep. 524.—*Wells v. Masterman*, 2 Esp. Rep. 731.—*Jacaud v. French*, 12 East. 322, 3.; and see *Bayl.* 55. 74, 5. In the case of *Swan & al. v. Steele*, 7 East. 210. the facts were these: A. B. and C. traded under the firm of A. and B. in the cotton business, C. not being known to the world as a partner; and A. and B. traded as partners alone, under the same firm in the business of grocers; in which latter business they became indebted to D. and gave him their acceptance, which not being able to take up when due, they, in order to provide for it, indorsed in the common firm of A. and B. a bill exchange to D. which they had received in the cotton business, in

and this rule prevails, although by the terms of the partnership deed, the partners were prohibited from By act of partner.

which C. was interested ; but such indorsement was unknown to C. of whom D. the indorsee had no knowledge at the time ; and it was decided that such indorsement in the firm common to both partnerships of a bill received by A. and B. in the cotton business, bound C. their secret partner in that business, and that consequently C. was liable to be sued by D. on such indorsement, the latter not knowing of the misapplication of the partnership fund at the time. Lord Ellenborough, C. J. said, " It would be a strange and novel doctrine to hold it necessary for a person receiving a bill of exchange indorsed by one of several partners, to apply to each of the other partners, to know whether he assented to such indorsement, or otherwise that it should be void ; there is no doubt, that in the absence of all fraud on the part of the indorsee, such indorsement would bind all the partners. There may be partnerships where none of the existing partners have their names in the firm ; third persons may not know who they are ; and yet they are all bound by the acts of any of the partners in the name or firm of the partnership.—The distinction is well settled, that if a creditor of one of the partners collude with him to take payment or security for his individual debt out of the partnership funds, knowing at the time that it is without the consent of the other partner, it is fraudulent and void ; but if it be taken *bonâ fide* without such knowledge at the time, no subsequently acquired knowledge of the misconduct of the partner in giving such security can disaffirm the act ; if the interests of the plaintiffs in the bill were once well vested, no subsequent knowledge that such indorsement was made without the consent of one of the partners, will divest it ; and it would be highly inconvenient that it should ; because, if the plaintiffs had been apprized at the time that the partner who indorsed the bill had no authority to do so, they might have obtained some other security for their demand."

In *Ex parte Bonbonus*, 8 Ves. jun. 542. the Lord Chancellor Eldon said, " This petition is presented here upon a principle which it is very difficult to maintain ; that if a partner for his own accommodation pledges the partnership, as the money comes to the account of the single partner only, the partnership is not bound. I cannot accede to that ; I agree, if it is manifest to the persons advancing money that it is upon the separate account, and so that it is against good faith that he should pledge the partnership, then they should shew, that he had authority to bind the partnership. But if it is in the ordinary course of commercial transactions, as upon discount, it would be monstrous to hold that a man borrowing money upon a bill of exchange, pledging the partnership without any knowledge in the bankers that it is a separate transaction, merely because that money is all carried into the books of the individual, therefore the partnership should not be bound. No case has gone that length. It was doubted, whether *Hope v. Cust* was not carried too far, yet that does not reach this transaction, nor *Sheriff v. Wilkes*, as to which I agree with Lord Kenyon, that as partners, whether they expressly provide against it in their articles, (as they generally do, though unnecessarily,) or not, do not act with good faith, when pledging the partnership property for the debt of the individual, so it is a fraud in the person taking that pledge for his separate debt. The question of fact, whether this was fair matter of discount, or, being an antecedent, separate, debt of Rogers, the discount was obtained merely for the purpose of paying that debt, by the application of the partnership

By act of partner. circulating any bills or notes, if the holder were ignorant of that circumstance at the time he received the same ; though on proof of such restrictive clause, and that the bill was issued by one partner without the concurrence, and in fraud of the others, the holder must prove that he gave value for it ¹; and though at law the executor of a deceased partner cannot be sued, yet in equity the amount of a bill or note issued in the name of the firm, though in fraud of the deceased partner, will be recoverable from such executor by a *bonâ fide* holder². But with respect to a person who, at the time

funds, which question is brought forward by the affidavits, though not by the petition, must lead to farther examination. If the partners are privy, and silent, permitting him to go on dealing in this way, without giving notice, the question will be, whether subsequent approbation is not for this purpose equivalent to previous consent. In *Fordyce's* case, Lord Thurlow and the judges had a great deal of conversation upon the law ; and they doubted upon the danger of placing every man with whom the paper of a partnership is pledged, at the mercy of one of the partners, with reference to the account he may afterwards give of the transaction. There is no doubt, now the law has taken this course, that if under the circumstances the party taking the paper can be considered as being advertized in the nature of the transaction, that it was not intended to be a partnership proceeding, as if it was for an antecedent debt, *primâ facie*, it will not bind them ; but it will, if you can shew previous authority, or subsequent approbation ; a strong case of subsequent approbation raising an inference of previous positive authority. In many cases of partnership, and different private concerns, it is frequently necessary for the salvation of the partnership that the private demand of one partner should be satisfied at the moment ; for the ruin of one partner would spread to the others ; who would rather let him liberate himself by dealing with the firm. The nature of the subsequent transactions therefore must be looked to, as well as that at the time."

¹ *Grant v. Hawkes and another*, K. B. Guildhall, 4 June, 1817. Action against the several defendants as partners in the Butterly Company, and as acceptors of a bill at the suit of the plaintiff as indorsee, the defendants having proved that by the articles of the company, the members were prohibited from circulating any bills or notes, Lord Ellenborough said, " an indorsee may recover on a bill against partners in a concern, though the drawing or accepting were contrary to agreement between them, and by one of the partners in fraud of the rest ; but then the indorsee must shew that he gave value." Scarlett and Reader for plaintiff. Topping, Jervis, Marryatt, Gurney, Gazelee, Peake, &c. for defendants. Bellamy, attorney for plaintiff. Anstice, for one of defendants.

² *Lane v. Williams and others*, 2 Vern. 277. 292. Newberry and Williams, the defendant's late husband, were partners, Newberry issued the note in the name of the firm in their shop, and received the money from the plaintiff, but which money was not brought into the trade. Williams died, and afterwards Newberry the plaintiff first filed a bill against the executors of Newberry, but there being a deficiency of assets he filed the present bill to have satisfaction out of

he received the instrument from the partner, knew, *By act of partner.* or had reason to suspect, that he negotiated it for his individual benefit, and without their concurrence, he cannot avail himself of the security as binding on the firm. It has been considered, that a bill being given

the estate of Williams; and per cur. The money being paid at the shop, the note of one partner binds both; and though at law the note stands good only against the executor of the surviving partner who was Newberry, who received the money, and signed the note, yet proper in equity to follow the estate of Williams for satisfaction; and decreed it accordingly.

¹ *Sheriff v. Wilkes*, 1 East. 48.—*Arden v. Sharp*, 2 Esp. Rep. 524. *Wells v. Masterman*, 2 Esp. Rep. 731. admitted by Lord Ellenborough, in *Swan v. Steele*, 7 East. 213.—*Ex parte Bonbonus*, 8 Ves. 542. 544.—*Ridley v. Taylor*, 13 East. 175.—*Henderson v. Wild*, 2 Campb. 561.—*Hope v. Cust*, 1 East. 53.—*Watson*, 197.—*Sheriff v. Wilkes*, 1 East. 48. In October 1795, Bishop and Wilkes, who were then partners, became indebted to the plaintiffs for goods sold and delivered. Robson became a partner with Bishop and Wilkes in April 1796, and continued so till the 8th of November following, when the partnership was dissolved. On the 5th November, 1796, the plaintiffs drew on the partnership for the amount of their demand against Bishop and Wilkes, and Bishop accepted the bill in the partnership firm. The plaintiff now sued the three partners on this acceptance. Bishop and Robson were out-lawed, and Wilkes pleaded the general issue. A verdict was found for the plaintiffs, subject to the opinion of the court. Lord Kenyon said, he did not know how the case came to be reserved, as he had repeatedly decided the same question at the sittings, the propriety of which decisions had not been canvassed. He said, the consideration of the bill was goods sold to Bishop and Wilkes only, when Robson was not a partner. Then the plaintiffs knowing this draw the bill on the three partners, and knowingly take an acceptance from one of them to bind the other two, one of whom, Robson, had no concern with the matter, and was no debtor of theirs, no assent or knowledge on his part being found; the transaction is fraudulent on the face of it. The other judges concurred, *Postea* to defendant.

Arden v. Sharp and Gilson, 2 Esp. Rep. 523. Plaintiff indorsee of a bill of exchange against defendants as indorsers; the plaintiff proved that defendant Gilson came to him on the 1st March, and brought the bill in question, and requested him to get it discounted for him, but wished the business to be kept secret from his partner Mr. Sharp, to which plaintiff assented and took the bill; the indorsement of Sharp and Gilson was proved to be the hand-writing of Gilson. Lord Kenyon. "The party in this case who brings the action, was himself the person who took the bill with the indorsement by the one partner only, and was informed that the transaction was to be concealed from the other, he cannot sue the partnership; the transaction indicates that the money was for that partner's own use, and not raised on the partnership account, therefore shall not be allowed to resort to the security of the partnership, to whom in the original transaction he neither looked nor trusted." Plaintiff nonsuited.

Hope v. Cust, B. R. M. 1774, cited by Lawrence, J. in 1 East. 53. and *see ante*, 42, in notes. Fordyce traded on his separate account as well as in partnership with others, and being indebted to Hope on

By act of partner. for an antecedent debt due from one of the partners, raises a presumption that the creditor knew that the bill was given without the concurrence of the other partners¹, and that the taking the instrument from one of the partners in his own hand-writing, without consulting the others, raises a presumption that there is not any concurrence of the firm². But as a partner may in his individual capacity have a claim upon the firm, in respect of which he might draw, accept, or indorse a bill in its name, it seems to be now established that the mere circumstance of the party to whom he delivers it, knowing that he was using it for his private benefit, does not afford sufficient evidence of collusion to invalidate the transaction³. A strong case of sub-

his separate account, gave him a general guarantee in the partnership name for his own debt. Lord Mansfield left it to the jury, whether the taking of a guarantee were, in respect to the partners, a fair transaction, or covinous; with sufficient notice to the plaintiff, of the injustice and breach of trust Fordyce was guilty of in giving it. The jury found for the defendant.—In *Ex parte Bonbonus*, 8 Ves. 544. the Lord Chancellor, after mentioning the above case, said, that if under the circumstances the party taking the paper can be considered as being advertized of the nature of the transaction, that it was not intended to be a partnership proceeding, as if it was for an *antecedent debt* *prima facie* it will not bind them, but it will if you can shew previous authority or subsequent approbation, a strong case of subsequent approbation raising an inference of previous positive authority.

¹ *Ex parte Bonbonus*, 8 Ves. 544.—*Hope v. Cust*, cited in 1 East. 53. S. C.—1 Mont. 622.

² *Hope v. Cust*, 1 East. 53. ante, 43, in notes.

³ *Ex parte Bonbonus*, 8 Ves. jun. 542. 544.—*Henderson v. Wild*, 2 Campb. 561, 2.—*Ridley v. Taylor*, 13 East. 175. In the last case it was held, that if one partner draw or indorse a bill in the partnership firm, it will *prima facie* bind the firm, although passed by the one partner to a separate creditor, in discharge of *his own debt*; unless there be *evidence of covin* between such separate debtor and creditor, or at least of the *want of authority*, either express or to be implied, in the debtor partner, to give the joint security of the firm for his separate debt. But it was held that no sufficient circumstance appeared in that case, to raise any presumption adverse to the separate creditor, for taking such joint security, in a case where the bill appeared to have been drawn in the name of the firm, to their own order, eighteen days before the delivery of it to the separate creditor, and to have been accepted and indorsed before such delivery, and to have been drawn for a larger amount than the particular debt; and where, though the indorsement was in fact made by the hand of the debtor partner, yet it did not appear that that fact was known to the separate creditor at the time; and this too in a case where direct evidence might have been given of covin, or want of authority, if it existed. For the action being brought by the separate creditor against the acceptor, either of the partners might have been called as a wit-

sequent approbation by all the partners, raises an inference of their previous authority having been given to the particular partner to sign the partnership name to a bill, or to negotiate it, and will subject the partners to liability in a transaction, where they would not have been chargeable without such subsequent assent¹. By act of partner.

Even in transactions in which all the partners are interested, the authority of one partner to bind the other, by signing bills of exchange, or promissory notes, in their joint names, is only implied, and may be rebutted by express previous notice to the party taking the security from one of them, that the other would not be liable for it². And though where A. was

ness by the defendant, to disprove the authority of the debtor partner, to give the joint security; for though if the separate creditor recovered against the acceptor, he would have his remedy over against the firm; yet the innocent partner would have his remedy over against the other; and the bankruptcy of the debtor partner in the mean time does not vary the question of competency. And Lord Ellenborough, C. J. said, "*Prima facie* one partner is bound by the indorsement of another in the partnership firm; but that presumption may be cut down, by shewing collusion: but the difficulty of the case is, that we have not the facts sufficiently before us to shew that collusion. If this were distinctly the case of a pledging by one partner of a partnership security, for his own separate debt, without the authority of the other partner; or if there existed in this case evident covin between one partner, and the holder of the partnership security, upon which the action is brought, in order to charge the other partner without his knowledge or consent, either express or implied, for the private advantage of the parties to such covinous agreement, we should have no hesitation to pronounce a bill, drawn and indorsed under such circumstances, void in the hands of the covinous holders, upon the principle laid down in the case of *Sheriff and another v. Wilkes and others*, 1 East. 48.; but upon the facts stated, such does not distinctly appear to us to be the case.; nor does it appear that there was any such *crassa negligentia* on the part of the plaintiffs, in not inquiring whether Ewbank, the one partner with whom they dealt, was authorized to dispose of this security (which had originally been partnership property) as his own, as to render this transaction on that account fraudulent, and therefore void."

¹ See the cases, 1 Mont. 622.—Watson, 202. ante, 42 & 44, in notes.

² Lord Galway v. Matthew and another, 10 East. 264.— — v. Layfield, 1 Salk. 291.—Minnit v. Whitney, 16 Vin. Abr. 244.—Bayl. 57. 225.—Lord Galway v. Matthew and Smithson, 10 East. 264. The defendants and Whitehouse (since deceased) were in partnership as brewers. Matthew applied to the plaintiff to lend his acceptance for £200, to enable him to pay excise duties due from the house, and promised in return to give the note of the firm, payable four days before the acceptance. The plaintiff gave his acceptance, and Matthew drew the note, and signed it for himself and partners.

By act of partner. partner in a firm trading under a particular name in one branch of business, and some of the partners in that firm carried on another line of business in the same name, and issued a bill in the name of the firm, merely on account of transactions concerning the latter business, in which A. had no concern, yet it was held that he was liable to a *bonâ fide* holder¹, yet where persons are partners only in a *particular* and single transaction, and not *general* partners, they are not liable even to a *bonâ fide* holder, on a bill issued by one of them in relation to a different concern².

An *act of bankruptcy* committed by one of several partners, however secret, *ipso facto* determines his power to make use of the name of the firm, and no person can derive any benefit or right of action against the firm, upon any bill or note negotiated by the party, after such his act of bankruptcy³. And after the *dis-*

He then got the acceptance discounted, and applied £180 in payment of partnership debts, reserving enough to himself. The plaintiff, after Whitehouse's death, was obliged to take up his acceptance, and now sued the defendants on the note. Matthew suffered judgment by default, but Smithson proved that the plaintiff, before he took the note, had received notice of an advertisement by him, warning persons not to trust Matthew on his account, and that he would be no longer liable for drafts drawn by the other partners on the partnership account. And Lord Ellenborough held, that the plaintiff having taken the note after such warning could not recover, and therefore nonsuited him, and on motion to set the aside nonsuit, the court refused the rule.

¹ *Swan v. Steele and another*, 7 East. 210.—*Baker v. Charlton*, Peake, 80.—ante, 402, note 2.

² *Williams v. Thomas, Hunter, and Latham*, 6 Esp. Rep. 18.—Messrs. Leake and List drew a bill for £1500 in favour of plaintiff, for goods furnished the ship *Cecelia*, in which the defendants were charged as acceptors. Defendants proved that the acceptance was made by the defendant Latham on his own account. The defendants were partners in the ship *Cecelia*, of which defendant Thomas was Captain, and had guaranteed Leake and List to secure to them the money for the outfit. Per Lord Ellenborough, Leake and List could give no better title to the holder than they had themselves; they could not draw for a general account, but for the account of the ship only; they could not bind Thomas by drawing a bill upon him, and the other defendants, for an account unconnected with the ship. Plaintiff nonsuited.

³ *Thomason and others v. Frere and others*, 10 East. 418. Thomason, Underhill, and Guest, were partners in trade at Birmingham, and being indebted to the defendants to the amount of £1800, and creditors upon Gamble and Co. for £1450, Underhill and Guest, on the 11th of October, 1807, without the knowledge of

dissolution of a partnership by agreement duly notified By act of partner.
in the Gazette, one of the persons who composed the firm cannot put the partnership name on any negotiable security, even though it existed prior to the dissolution, or were for the purpose of liquidating the partnership debts, notwithstanding such partner may have had authority to settle the partnership affairs¹. And after notice of the dissolution of a partnership published in the Gazette, and sent round to the customers of the firm, if one of the partners, who carries on the business under the old firm, draws, accepts, or indorses bills in the name of that firm, the other partners need not apply for an injunction against his doing so, for they are not liable upon such bills, given to a person ignorant of the dissolution of the partnership². And though it has been held that notice in the Gazette is not sufficient against persons who were customers of the firm, during the existence of the partnership, and that a particular notice should be given to each; it appears to be clearly established, that notice in the Gazette is at all events sufficient against all persons who

Thomason, who was then abroad, indorsed to the defendants a bill drawn by Thomason, Underhill, and Guest, upon and accepted by the agents of Gamble and Co. for this £1450. Underhill and Guest had, on the 7th October, 1807, committed acts of bankruptcy, upon which separate commissions issued on the 19th. The bill for £1450 became due on the 6th December, and was then paid. And to recover this money, the present action was brought by Thomason and the assignees of Underhill and Guest. The house of Thomason, Underhill, and Guest, was still indebted to the defendants beyond the amount of the sum now sought to be recovered. The plaintiffs were nonsuited by Grose, J. But on a rule nisi for a new trial, the court (Lord Ellenborough absente) held, that the indorsement having been made after an act of bankruptcy, though before the issuing of the commission, and though for the purpose of paying a partnership debt, was invalid, and they inclined to think that this action being brought to recover the money received on the bill, which had been thus wrongfully indorsed, the defendants had no right to set off their demand upon the firm against this claim by Thomason and the assignees. Rule absolute. And see *Ramsbottom v. Lewis*, 1 Campb. 279.

¹ *Kilgour v. Finlyson*, 1 Hen. Bla. 155.—*Abel v. Sutton*, 3 Esp. Rep. 108.—*Watson*, 209.—*Henderson and another v. Wild*, 2 Campb. 561.—*Wrightson and another v. Pullan and another*, 1 Stark. 375.

² *Newsome v. Coles*, 2 Campb. 617. and *Wrightson and another v. Pullan and another*, 1 Stark. 375.

By act of partner. have not previously had transactions with. the firm¹. And where after the actual dissolution of a partnership duly notified in the Gazette, one of the parties accepted a bill in the name of the partnership firm, drawn after the dissolution, but dated before it, it was held that an indorsee who took the bill without notice of the dissolution, could not enforce the bill against the other members of the firm, and a distinction was taken by the court between such case, and the case of goods supplied after the dissolution of the partnership, but without notice, by a person who had been in the habit of supplying goods to the firm². And an alteration in the printed checks is sufficient notice of a change in the firm of a banking-house to customers who have used the new checks³. And a dormant partner whose name has never been announced, may withdraw from the concern without making the dissolution of partnership publicly known⁴. However, an admission made by one partner, after the dissolution; relative to a previous partnership transaction, will affect the firm⁵.

The *death* of a party is in general a revocation of all express and implied authorities given by him, but where A. being member of a partnership consisting of several individuals drew a bill of exchange in blank in the partnership firm, payable to their order, and having likewise indorsed it in the partnership firm, delivered it to a clerk to be filled up for the use of the partnership, as the exigencies of business might require, according to a course of dealing in other instances; and after A.'s death, and the surviving partners had assumed a new firm, the clerk filled up the bill, inserting a date prior

¹ Gorham v. Thompson, Peake. 42.—Graham v. Hope, id. 154.—Fox v. Hanbury, Cowp. 449.—Godfrey v. Macauley, 1 Esp. Rep. 371.—Peuke. Rep. 155.—1 Siderf. 127.—Lceson v. Holt and others, 1 Stark. 186.—Jenkins and another v. Blizzard and another, 1 Stark. 418.—1 Mont. on Partn. 105, 6.

² Wrightson and another v. Pullan and another, 1 Stark. 375.

³ Barfoot and another v. Goodall and another, 3 Campb. 147.

⁴ Evans v. Drummond, 4 Esp. 89.

⁵ Wood v. Braddick, 1 Taunt. 104.—Halliday v. Ward, 3 Campb. 32.

to A.'s death, and sent it into circulation; it was held By act of partner. that the surviving partners were liable as drawers of the bill to a bonâ fide indorsee for value, although no part of the value came to their hands ¹.

Wherever the law is silent, as to the extent of the above custom, it should seem that evidence of the usage of merchants is admissible, but not otherwise ²; and therefore where two persons, who were not general partners, drew a bill on A. B. payable to their order, and separately signed it, not in the name of any supposed firm, and only one of them indorsed it with his own name, in an action at the suit of an indorsee against A. B. the acceptor, Lord Mansfield, on a new trial, admitted evidence to prove, that by the universal usage, and understanding of all the merchants and bankers in London, the indorsement was bad, because not signed by both the payees; and accordingly the defendant had a verdict; notwithstanding it was insisted, that the validity of the indorsement was a question of law, and although the court of King's Bench, on the motion for the new trial, had previously declared their opinion in the same cause, that when a bill goes out into the world, the persons to whom it is negotiated, are to collect the state and relation of the parties from the bill itself; and that if they appear on the bill as partners, it would be of less public detriment to subject them to the inconvenience of being treated as such, than to permit them to deny that they are so; and that persons, by making a bill payable to their order, render themselves partners as to that transaction ³.

¹ Usher and another v. William Dauncey and another, 4 Campb. 97. Lord Ellenborough said, that this case came within the principle of Russell v. Langstaff, Dougl. 513. that the power must be considered to emanate from the partnership not from the individual partner; and that therefore after his death, the bill might still be filled up so as to bind the survivors.

² Edie v. East India Company, 2 Burr. 1216. 1221.—1 Bla. Rep. 295. S. C. See Phillips on Evid. 2d edit. 434, 5, 6.—Holt, C. N. P. 68, 9. in notes.

³ Carwick v. Vickery, Dougl. 653. *sed quare*.

By act of partner.

If a factor of an incorporate company, draw a bill on such company, and one member accept it, the acceptance will not bind the company, because it is a private act of the party, and not a public act of the company. And on the same principle, if several persons, each in his individual capacity, employ one factor, and he draw a bill on all of them, and one accept it, the acceptance will not bind the rest¹.

Sometimes an *express* authority is given by several partners to one, to act for all of them, in which case the person authorized acts as agent as well as partner, and his power and authority being express, he must be guided by it. An express authority given to one partner, after the dissolution of the partnership, to receive all debts owing to, and to pay those due from the partnership, on its dissolution, does not authorize him to indorse a bill of exchange in the name of the partnership, though drawn by him in that name, and accepted by a debtor of the partnership after the dissolution².

From this liability of partners to answer for the acts of each other, it is necessary, that after the dissolution of their connection, they should, in order to avoid the consequences of any one of the partners making, indorsing, or accepting a bill in their names, give notice in the Gazette, of the dissolution of partnership; and even this notice, as has been before observed, is not sufficient against persons who were customers during the partnership, unless they have actual notice of the dissolution; and the partners should therefore give notice of the dissolution to their individual correspondents³. Where one of several

¹ Bul. N. P. 270.—Mar. 2d ed. 16.—Beawes, pl. 228.—Molloy, b. 2. c. 10. s. 18.

² Kilgour v. Finlayson, 1 Hen. Bla. 155.—Abel v. Sutton, 3 Esp. Rep. 108.

³ Gorham v. Thompson, Peake, C. N. P. 42.—Graham v. Hope, id. 150.—Fox v. Hanbury, Cowp. 449.—Godfrey v. Macauley, 1 Esp. Rep. 371.—1 Mont. Partn. 105, 6.—Ante, 47; but see Wrightson v. Pullan, 1 Stark. 375.—Ante, 48.

partners refuses to concur in signing notice of dissolution, to be inserted in the Gazette, or pending the partnership, has improperly issued bills in the name of the firm, it is advisable to file a bill, to prevent him from signing, or negotiating securities in the name of the firm, and praying a dissolution¹. . . . By act of partner.

With respect to the mode in which a bill should be drawn, accepted, or indorsed, by or on the behalf of several persons, it has been laid down, that whenever a person draws, accepts, or indorses a bill for himself and partner, he should always express that he does so "for himself and partner," or subscribe *both the names*, or the *name of the firm*, and that otherwise it will not bind the partner². But it has been recently determined, that where a bill is drawn upon a firm, and accepted by one partner only in his name, it will bind the firm³. And where A. B. and C. being in partnership, A. drew a promissory note, by which he promised individually to pay the money, and signed the same with his own name only, but prefixing to his signature "for A. B. and Co." this was held to

¹ *Master v. Kirton*, 3 Ves. jun. 74.—*Ex parte Noakes*, 1 Mont. on Partn. 93.—*Ryan v. Mackmarth*, 3 Bro. Ch. Ca. 15.—*Newsome v. Coles*, 2 Campb. 619.—*Lawson v. Morgan*, 1 Price Rep. 303.

² *Pinkney v. Hall*, 1 Salk. 126.—*Ld. Raym.* 175. S. C.—*Carwick v. Vickery*, Dougl. 653.—*Smith v. Jarves*, *Ld. Raym.* 1484.—*The King v. Wilkinson*, 7 T. R. 156.—*Meux v. Humphrey*, 8 T. R. 25.—*Lepine v. Bayley*, *id.* 325.—*Watson*, 214.

³ *Mason v. Rumsey*, 1 Campb. 384. A bill was drawn on "Messrs. Rumsey and Co." and T. Rumsey, jun. wrote upon it, "Accepted, T. Rumsey, sen." The present action was defended by T. Rumsey, jun. who contended, that even if he were a partner (which he denied) this acceptance would not bind him. It was contended, that if a bill be drawn upon a firm, it must be accepted in the name of the firm, or by one partner for himself and his co-partners, otherwise the holder might protest the bill, as the mere signature of a single partner was binding only upon himself. Lord Ellenborough. There is no foundation for the doctrine contended for; this acceptance does not prove the partnership; but if the defendants were partners, they are both bound by it. For this purpose, it would have been enough if the word "accepted" had been written on the bill, and the effect cannot be altered by adding "T. Rumsey, sen." If a bill of exchange is drawn upon a firm, and accepted by one of the partners, he must be understood to exercise his power to bind his co-partners, and to accept the bill according to the terms in which it is drawn. The plaintiff had a verdict.

By act of partner. bind the firm'. It is said, however, that if a bill be directed unto two or more persons in these terms, "To Mr. Robert A. and Mr. J. B. Merchants in London;" in this case, both A. and B. ought to accept the bill, and that if one refuse, the bill must be protested for want of acceptance*. So if a promissory note appear on the face of it to be the separate note of A. only, it cannot be declared on as the joint note of A. and B. though given to secure a debt for which both were liable'. And when one of two partners drew bills of exchange in his own name, and got them discounted, and applied the proceeds to the partnership account, it was held, that the party advancing the money, has no remedy against the partnership, either upon the bills so drawn by the single partner, or for money had and received through the medium of such bills⁴, though, in a subsequent case, it appearing that all the partners had caused such bills to be issued for the purpose of raising money for the firm, they were held liable to be sued by the persons who discounted the bills for the money as lent, and for interest⁵.

¹ *Id.* *Galway v. Matthews and another*, 1 Campb. 403.—10 East. 264. S. C. but not same point.—Bayl. 24.

² *Marius*, 16; and see *Carwick v. Vickery*, Dougl. 653.—Bayl. 55.

³ *Siffkin v. Walker and another*, 2 Campb. 308.—*Emly v. Lye and another*, 15 East. 7.

⁴ *Emly v. Lye and another*, 15 East. 7.

⁵ *Denton v. Rodie and another*, 3 Campb. 493. Per Lord Ellenborough, "I think this case is distinguishable from *Emly v. Lye*. Here I conceive the partner in America had authority from the two others to raise money for the use of the firm, and money was accordingly raised from the plaintiffs upon these bills, in pursuance of such authority. The transaction is a loan rather than a discount. I. B. Clough was sent out to America to manage the business of the house there, and to procure homeward investments; the shipments from this country did not form an adequate fund for that purpose. He says himself, that he had a *carte blanche* as to the means he should adopt; he accordingly raises money, for which he gives, as a security, bills of exchange, drawn in his own name, upon the house. They know and recognize this mode of dealing; they regularly accept and pay the bills so drawn, till the time of their failure; therefore, although I cannot say they are jointly liable upon the *unaccepted bills*, I think they are jointly indebted to the same amount, as for money lent, or money had and received." It was then suggested, that the plaintiffs, upon this supposition, could not claim interest; but Lord Ellenborough thought, that from the course of dealing, the plaintiffs were entitled to interest, although they did not recover upon the written securities. Verdict accordingly.

CHAPTER III.

OF THE FORM AND REQUISITES OF BILLS, &c.—THE CONSIDERATION FOR WHICH MADE OR TRANSFERRED—CONSTRUCTION OF THEM—CONSEQUENCE OF ALTERATION IN THEM—AND OF THE DRAWER'S LIABILITY.

THOUGH a bill of exchange, check, promissory note, &c. must be in writing¹, there is in general no particular *form*, or set of words, necessary to be adopted, any more than in the case of a bond or other deed². And indeed our courts considering the general utility of these instruments, and how much they tend to the extension of credit, and consequent advancement of trade and commerce, have uniformly gone further in giving effect to them as instruments, than they have where a question has arisen on the formation of a deed.

The form of bills of exchange, &c., in general.

¹ Thomas v. Bishop, Rep. Temp. Hardw. 2.

² Com. Dig. tit. Obligation, B. 1, 2.—Bac. Ab. tit. Obligation, B. — v. Ormston, 10 Mod. 287.—Dawkes v. Ld. de Lorraine, 3 Wils. 213.—Morris v. Lee, Lord Raym. 1397.—1 Stra. 629.—8 Mod. 364. S. C.—Chadwick v. Allen, 2 Stra. 706.—Rast. Ent. 338.—Ruff v. Webb, 1 Esp. Rep. 129.—Colchan v. Cooke, Willes, 396.—Bayl. 3.

Morris v. Lee, Lord Raym. 1396.—1 Stra. 629.—8 Mod. 362. S. C. Plaintiff sued as indorsee of a note in these words, "I promise to account with T. S. or order, for fifty pounds, value received by me;" and after verdict for plaintiff, it was insisted in arrest of judgment, that this was not a negotiable note: sed per cur. "There are no precise words necessary to be used in a note or bill. Deliver such a sum of money, makes a good bill; by receiving the value, the defendant became a debtor, and when he promises to be accountable to A. or order, it is the same thing as a promise to pay A., and it would be an odd construction to expound the word 'accountable' to give an account, when there may be several indorsees." Judgment for plaintiff.

Chadwick v. Allen, 2 Stra. 706. A note was in these words: "I do acknowledge that Sir Andrew Chadwick has delivered me all the bonds and notes, for which £400 were paid him on account of Colonel Synge, and that Sir Andrew delivered me Major Graham's receipt and bill on me for £10, which £10 and £15. 5s. balance, due to Sir Andrew, I am still indebted and do promise to pay," and

The form of bills
of exchange, &c.

Thus an order or promise to deliver money, or a promise that I. S. shall receive money, or a promise to be accountable or responsible for it, will be a sufficient bill, or note¹; and where a note was in these words “borrowed of I. S. £50, which I promise *never* to pay,” the word “never” was rejected, and the holder recovered²; and in a late case it was decided, that an instrument in the common form of a bill of exchange, except that the word “*at*” was substituted for “*to*,” before the name of the drawee, may be declared on as a bill of exchange, or as a promissory note, at the option of the holders³; and we have seen, that an instrument that appears, on common observation, to be a bill of exchange, may be treated as such, although words be introduced into it for the purpose of deception, which might make it a promissory note⁴. It is however advisable to draw bills, &c. according to the forms hereafter given. And in the case of bills and notes, for the payment of less than £5 certain forms must be observed⁵, for it is provided that all negotiable bills or notes made in England for less than twenty shillings, shall be void⁶, and all negotiable bills or notes made in England (excepting Bank of England notes and notes payable to the bearer on demand) for the payment of twenty shillings and less than £5, should be void, unless they specify the name and place of abode of the person to whom or to whose

upon demurrer to the declaration, the court held it a note within the statute.

Cashborne v. Dutton, Scacc. M. 1 Geo. 2. MS.—Sel. Ni. Pri. 363. Where the note set forth in the declaration was, “I do acknowledge myself to be indebted to A. in £——, to be paid on demand, for value received.” On demurrer to the declaration, the court, after solemn argument, held, that this was a good note within the statute, the words “to be paid,” amounting to a promise to pay, observing that the same words in a lease would amount to a covenant to pay rent.

¹ See cases in last note.

² Cited by Ld. Mansfield in Russell v. Langstaffe, B. R., M. 21 Geo. 3. and in Peach v. Kay, sittings after Trin. Term, 1781. and per Lord Hardw. 2 Atk. 32.—Bayl. 4.

³ Shuttleworth v. Stephen, 1 Campb. 407.—Ante, 28.

⁴ Allen v. Mawson, 4 Campb. 115.—Ante, 28.

⁵ 17 Geo. 3. c. 30. s. 1. See the statute in the Appendix.

⁶ 48 Geo. 3. c. 88.

order they are made payable, and be attested by one subscribing witness, and bear date at or before the time when they are issued, and be made payable within twenty-one days after the date, and being the form prescribed by the act¹.

The form of bills of exchange, &c.

There are *two principal qualities* essential to the validity of a bill or note, *first*, that it be *payable at all events*, not dependent on any contingency, nor payable out of a particular fund; and *secondly*, that it be for the *payment of money only*, and not for the payment of money, and performance of some other act, or in the alternative; for it would perplex commercial transactions, if paper securities of this nature, encumbered with conditions and contingencies were circulated, and if the persons to whom they were offered in negotiation, were obliged to inquire when these uncertain events would probably be reduced to a certainty².

Their general requisites.

First. An order or promise to pay money, provided the terms mentioned in certain letters, shall be complied with³, or provided that I. S. shall not be surrendered to prison within a limited time⁴, or provided

¹ 17 Geo. 3. c. 30. s. 1. made perpetual by 27 Geo. 3. c. 16. See post, Appendix.

² Per Kenyon, C. J. in *Carlos v. Fancourt*, 5 T. R. 485.—*Dawkes v. Lord de Loraine*, 3 Wils. 213.—2 Bla. Rep. 782. S. C.—*Roberts v. Peake*, 1 Burr. 325.

³ *Kingston v. Long*, B. R. M. 25 Geo. 3. The plaintiff brought an action as indorsee against the defendant as acceptor, upon an order importing to be payable, "provided the terms mentioned in certain letters written by the drawer were complied with," and the court held clearly, that the plaintiff could not recover, though the acceptance admitted a compliance with the terms, for the order was no bill until after such compliance, and if it were not a bill when drawn, it could not afterwards become one. Bayl. 9.

⁴ *Smith v. Boheme*, 3 Lord Raym. 67. cited Lord Raym. 1362. 1396. Action by the plaintiff as payee of the note, against the makers, upon a promise to pay the plaintiff, or order, on demand, the sum of £71 12s. 10d. or surrender the body of Samuel Boheme to an action brought against him by Smith. Verdict for the plaintiff, and judgment; and on error brought in the King's Bench, the court held that this was not a note within the statute, because the money was not absolutely payable, but depended upon the contingency whether the defendants should surrender Samuel Boheme to prison, and the judgment was reversed.

Their general
requisites.

I. S. shall not pay the money by a particular day¹, or provided I. S. shall leave me sufficient, or I shall otherwise be able to pay it², or when I. S. shall marry, or if the maker should be married within two months³, or to pay a sailor wages if he do his duty as an able seaman⁴, is no bill or note on account of the contingency upon which the payment depends.

So if the payment depend upon the sufficiency of a particular fund, the bill or note will be invalid; thus an order to pay money out of the drawer's growing subsistence⁵, or out of the fifth payment when it should become due, and it should be allowed by the drawer⁶, or out of money when received⁷, or an order to pay

¹ Appleby v. Biddulph, cited 8 Mod. 363.—4 Vin. Ab. 240. pl. 16. An action was brought on this note, "I promise to pay T. M. £50, if my brother doth not pay it within six weeks," and after verdict for the plaintiff the court arrested judgment, because the maker was only to pay it upon a contingency.

² Roberts v. Peake, Burr. 323. The plaintiff, as indorsee of a note, sued one of the makers; the instrument was in these words, "we promise to pay A. B. £116. 11s. value received, on the death of George Henshaw, provided he leaves either of us sufficient to pay that said sum, or if we otherwise shall be able to pay it;" and upon a case reserved, the court held it was not a negotiable note, because it was payable eventually and conditionally only, and not absolutely and at all events, and a nonsuit was entered; and see Ex parte Tootell, 4 Ves. 372.

³ Beardsley v. Baldwin, Stra. 1151. A note to pay money within so many days after the defendant should marry, was held not to be a negotiable note; and in Pearson v. Garrett, Comb. 277, and 4 Mod. 242. an action having been brought upon a note, by which the defendant promised to pay the plaintiff sixty guineas, if he (the plaintiff) should be married within two months, the court inclined against the note, because it was to pay money on a mere contingency.

⁴ Alves v. Hodgson, 7 T. R. 242.

⁵ Jocelyn v. Laserre, Fort. 281.—10 Mod. 294. 316. Evans drew upon Jocelyn, and required him to pay Laserre £7 per month out of Evans's growing subsistence. Laserre sued Jocelyn and had judgment, but upon a writ of error, that judgment was reversed, because this draft was not a good bill of exchange, inasmuch as it would not have been payable had Evans died, or had his subsistence been taken away.

⁶ Haydock v. Linch, Lord Raym. 1363. Rogers drew upon Linch and requested him to pay Haydock £14 3s. out of the fifth payment when it should become due, and it should be allowed by Rogers. Linch accepted the draft, and Haydock sued him, but the court, upon demurrer to the declaration, held this was no bill of exchange, and gave judgment for the defendant.

⁷ Dawkes v. Lord de Loraine, 2 Bla. Rep. 782.—3 Wils. 207. A draft was in these words, "8 Jan. 1768. Seven weeks after date, pay to Mrs. Dawkes £32 17s. out of W. Steward's money, as soon as you shall have received it, for your humble servant, De Loraine. To Timothy

the amount of a note and interest out of the purchase-money of the drawer's house¹, or an order or promise to pay out of the drawer's money that should arise from his reversion, when sold, is no bill or note². So an order to pay a sum of money out of the rents or other money in the hands of the person to whom it is addressed, is no bill, because he may not have rent or other money in his hands sufficient to discharge it³. So a promise to pay on the sale or produce, immediately when sold, of the White Hart Inn, St. Alban's, and the goods, &c. is no note, although it be averred in the declaration upon such promise, that the White Hart Inn, goods, &c. were sold before the action was com-

Their general
requisites.

Brecknock, Esq." Brecknock accepted the bill, but it not being paid, Mrs. D. brought an action against Lord de Loraine, who pleaded that Brecknock had not received W. Steward's money; and upon demurrer to his plea, insisted that this was not a bill of exchange. The court, after argument, held the objection good, because it was payable out of a particular fund, and on an event which was future and contingent, viz. the receipt of W. Steward's money, whereas a bill ought to be subject to no event or contingency, except the failure of the general personal credit of the persons drawing or negotiating it.

¹ Yates v. Groves, 1 Ves. jun. 280, 1.

² Carlos v. Fancourt, in error from the C. P. 5 T. R. 482. Assumpsit upon a promissory note, whereby Carlos, in the life-time of defendant's wife, promised to pay Fancourt's wife the sum of £10, "*out of his money that should arise from his reversion of £43 when sold.*" The defendant suffered judgment by default, and brought a writ of error, and the court held that this note could not be declared upon as a negotiable security under the stat. 3 & 4 Ann. c. 9. the object of which stat. was to put promissory notes on the same footing with bills of exchange in every respect, and they must stand or fall by the same rules by which bills of exchange were governed; and unless they carried their own validity on the face of them, they were not negotiable, and on that ground, bills of exchange which were only payable on a contingency, were not negotiable, because it did not appear on the face of them whether or not they would ever be paid. The same rule that governed bills of exchange in this respect must also govern promissory notes, and therefore reversed the judgment.—Hill v. Halford, post, 58. & 59. n. 1.

³ Jenney v. Herle, Lord Raym. 1361.—8 Mod. 265.—Stra. 591.—Herle sued Jenney upon a bill drawn by him upon Pratt, and payable to Herle as follows, "Sir, you are to pay Mr. Herle £1945 out of the money in your hands, belonging to the proprietors of the Devonshire Mines, being part of the consideration money for the purchase of the manor of West Buckland. Herle had judgment in the Common Pleas; but upon a writ of error, the Court of King's Bench held, that this was no bill of exchange, because it was only payable out of a particular fund, supposed to be in Pratt's hands, and the judgment was accordingly reversed.

Their general
requisites.

menced¹. So an order from the owner of a ship to the freighter, to pay money on account of freight, is no bill, because the quantum due on the freight may be open to litigation², but such an order from the freighter is, because it is an admission that so much at least is due³.

Secondly, the bill or note must be for the payment of money only, and not for the payment of money and performance of some other act, or in the alternative. Thus, if an instrument be to deliver up horses and a wharf, and pay money on a particular day⁴, or to pay a sum of money, or surrender to I. S. to prison⁵, or to pay money in good East India Bonds⁶, is not a bill or note.

¹ Hill v. Halford and another, in error, 2 Bos. & Pul. 413. The defendants in error sued Hill, as maker of a note, thereby promising to pay them £190 *on the sale or produce, immediately when sold*, of the White Hart Inn, St. Alban's, Herts, and the goods, &c. value received. The declaration averred a sale of the Inn and goods before the commencement of the action. After judgment in K. B. by default, writ of inquiry executed, and general damage recovered. Hill brought a writ of error in the Exchequer Chamber, and the court held that this promise could not be declared on as a note, and therefore reversed the judgment.

² Banbury v. Lissett, Stra. 1211. Gibson drew on the defendant in favour of the plaintiff, "on account of the freight of the Galley Veale, Edward Champion, and this order shall be your sufficient discharge for the same." This action was brought against the defendants as acceptors, and they contended that it was not a bill of exchange, because it was only payable out of a particular fund; and Lee, C. J. was of that opinion.

³ Pierson v. Dunlop, Cowp. 571. M'Lintot freighted a ship, of which Nicholl was captain, and Pierson owner, and being unable to pay the freight, drew upon Dunlop and Co. in favour of Nicholl, on account of freight. Pierson afterwards sued Dunlop and Co. as acceptors, and though other objections were taken, yet it was never insisted that this was payable out of a particular fund.

⁴ Martin v. Chauntry, Stra. 1271. On error from the Court of Common Pleas, the Court of King's Bench held, that a note to deliver up horses and a wharf, and pay money at a particular day, was not a note within the statute, and reversed the judgment in favour of the original plaintiff.

⁵ Smith v. Boheme, Gilb. Cases L. & E. 93. cited also in Lord Raym. 1362. 1396, and see 3 Lord Raym. 67. Error on judgment in C. P. upon a note to pay £72 upon demand for value received, or render the body of A. B., &c. to the Fleet, before such a day. The court held such note to be contingent and invalid.

⁶ Anon. Bull. Ni. Pri. 272. a written promise to pay £300. to B. or order, in three good East India bonds, was held not to be a note within the statute.

If the bill, note, &c. be insufficient in its formation in either of these respects, it will not become valid by any subsequent occurrence rendering the payment no longer contingent¹; and the instrument will not be negotiable, nor can it be declared upon as a bill, even between the original parties²; and though it may in some cases be declared upon as an agreement, yet it cannot be produced in evidence, unless stamped as such³; and even if it be stamped, the consideration on which it was founded must be proved. So, though the instrument may, on the face of it, be absolute, yet, if by a memorandum on the back of it, the payment is rendered conditional, it cannot be declared upon as a bill or note between the same parties. And therefore, where upon an instrument in the common form of a joint and several promissory note, signed by three persons, there was an indorsement written at the time of signing it, stating that the note was taken as a security for all balances to the amount of the sum within specified, which one of the three might happen to owe to the payee, and that the note should be in force for six months, and that no money should be liable to be called for sooner in any case; it was decided, in an action against one of the sureties, that the payee could not declare upon this instrument as a promissory note, payable either on demand, or at six months after date⁴.

Their general
requisites.

¹ *Hill v. Halford*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 413.—*Ante*, p. 58.—*Colehan v. Cooke*, Willes, 399, post.—*Kingston v. Long*, ante, 55.—*Selw. N. P.* 367, n. 71. acc.—*Lewis v. Orde*, 1 Gilb. Ev. by Loft, 179. *semb. contra*.

² *Carlos v. Fancourt*, 5 T. R. 485.—*Mainwaring v. Newman*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 123.—*Alves v. Hodgson*, 7 T. R. 243.—*Bayley on Bills*, 8.

³ *Mainwaring v. Newman*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 125.—*Kyd on Bills*, 58.—*Leeds v. Lancashire*, 2 Campb. 207.

⁴ *Leeds v. Lancashire*, 2 Campb. 205. The defendant Marriott and Ball gave a joint and several promissory note to the plaintiffs for £200. No time for payment was mentioned in the note. On the back was written "The within note is taken for security of all such balances as James Marriott may happen to owe to Thomas Leeds and Co. not extending farther than the within sum of £200, but this note to be in force for six months, and no money liable to be called for sooner in any case." This memorandum was written before the note

Their general
requisites.

And when it appears by any part of the instrument, that the money was not payable immediately, and that the payment was to depend on an uncertain event, it will not operate as a bill of exchange, or a promissory note, but as a special agreement, and must be stamped as such; and therefore it was recently decided, that an instrument acknowledging the receipt of a bill of exchange which had two months to run, and promising to pay the amount with interest, is a special agreement, and not a promissory note, being in effect a special undertaking to repay the amount of the bills if honoured at maturity¹.

So where an instrument, purporting on the face of it to be a promissory note for the payment of money absolutely before it was signed, was indorsed with a memorandum, that if any dispute should arise between Lady W. and the plaintiff, respecting the sale of the timber, for which the note was given, it should be

was signed by the defendant or Ball. It appeared in an action upon this note, that, in the course of mercantile dealings, Marriott had become indebted to the plaintiffs, and that on their refusing to deal with him any longer without some guarantee, the above instrument, which the makers represented to be a note, was given. It was impressed with a promissory note stamp.

Lord Ellenborough. As between the original parties this instrument is only an agreement, and not a note; in the hands of a bona fide holder, who received it as a promissory note, it might possibly be considered as such. The plaintiffs were nonsuited.

¹ *Williamson v. Bennett*, 2 Campb. 417. The defendants were sued on the following instrument which was stamped as and declared upon as a promissory note, "Borrowed and received of J. and J. Williamson, (the plaintiffs,) the sum of £200, in three drafts, by W. and B. Williamson, dated as under, payable to us, W. Bennett and S. M. (the defendants) on J. and J. Williamson, which we promise to pay unto the said J. and J. Williamson, with interest. As witness this 26th day of August, 1802."

August 21st.	1 draft	at 2 months	£120
	1 ditto	-	30
	1 ditto	-	50
			<hr/> £200.

Signed by the Defendants.

Lord Ellenborough held, that this was not a promissory note; and said there can be no doubt that the money was not payable immediately, and that it was not to be paid at all unless the drafts were honoured. The plaintiffs were nonsuited.

void; it was held that the indorsement was part of the note, and the payment being only conditional, the instrument was not a note within the statute¹. So, if there be a written stipulation to renew even on a separate paper, it should seem that it will qualify the liability, though it will not vitiate the instrument itself². But where an indorsement appeared merely to import the will or desire of the payee, that the maker should be indulged as to the time or manner of payment, and the original undertaking was positive, it was held, that such indorsement did not affect the validity of the note, or afford any defence³. And if the instrument on the face of it, purport to be an absolute engagement to pay money at a certain time, no *parol* evidence of an agreement at the time to renew or give indulgence will be admissible to defeat the action, on the bill or note⁴.

Their general
re jubites.

¹ Hartley v. Wilkinson and another, 4 M. & S. 25.—4 Campb. 127. S. C.

² Bowerbank v. Monteiro, 4 Taunt. 844.—Steel v. Bradfield, id. 227.

³ Stone v. Metcalfe, gent. one, &c. Sit. after Trin. 1815, MS. and 4 Campb. 217.—1 Stark. 53.

⁴ Hoare and others v. Graham, 3 Campb. 57. Indorsee against the payers of a promissory note. The defendants gave in evidence that they had indorsed the note by way of collateral security for certain advances made by the plaintiff to Messrs. Grill and Son, and the verbal condition of the defendant's indorsement was, that the note should be renewed when it became due, to which the plaintiffs acceded, but that they afterwards demanded payment instead of calling for a renewal.

Lord Ellenborough. I do not think I can admit evidence of this sort; what is to become of bills of exchange and promissory notes if they may be cut down by a secret agreement, that they shall not be put in suit. The *parol* condition is quite inconsistent with the written instrument. I will receive evidence that the note was indorsed to the plaintiffs as a trust, but the condition for a renewal entirely contradicts the instrument which the defendants have signed; such an agreement rests in confidence and honour only, and is not an obligation of law. There may, after a bill is drawn, be a binding promise for a valuable consideration to renew it when due, but if the promise is contemporaneous with the drawing of the bill, the law will not enforce it. This would be incorporating with a written contract an incongruous *parol* condition, which is contrary to first principles. The plaintiff therefore had a verdict. See this case cited by Gibbs, C. J. in Bowerbank v. Monteiro, 4 Taunt. 846.—See 1 Taunt. 347.—Skinn. 54.—Phillips on Evid. 2d edit. 433.; and see 1 M. & S. 21.

Dukes v. Dow, Sit. after Easter Term, 1817. *coram* Gibbs, C. J. Payee v. Maker of a note for £13 : 8s : 10d. payable nine months after

Their general
requisites.

But if the *event on which the instrument is to become payable, must inevitably happen some time or other*, it has been decided to be of no importance how long the payment may be in suspense¹. Therefore if a bill be drawn, payable six weeks after the death of the drawer's father², or payable to an infant, when he shall come of age, specifying the day when that event will happen, it will be valid and negotiable³.

There are also decisions, that if the event on which the payment is to depend, be of public notoriety, and relating to trade, and there be a moral certainty of its taking place, the bill, &c. will be valid⁴. On this ground the bills of exchange, called *Billæ nundinales*,

date. Defence and proof that defendant, at time of giving the note was charged in execution for a debt, and it was agreed between plaintiff and defendant, that the latter should be discharged on giving the note, and the plaintiff verbally agreed, at the time it was given, that if it was not convenient to the defendant to pay the note at maturity, the plaintiff would give him time, but had commenced this action contrary to such engagement. Gibbs, C. J. held, that such a parol contract collateral to the instrument, could not be admitted in evidence to annul the very terms of the written contract, and defeat its obligation.

Rawson and another v. Walker, 1 Stark. 361. Action on a promissory note for £66, payable on demand. Lord Ellenborough refused to receive parol evidence inconsistent with the term of the note; that it was agreed between the plaintiff and defendant that the defendant should not be called on to pay till a final dividend of a bankrupt's estate should be made.

¹ *Colehan v. Cooke*, Willes, 396. 8.—Stra. 1217. S. C.—*Goss v. Nelson*, 1 Burr. 226.

² *Colehan v. Cooke*, Willes, 396.—Stra. 1217. S. C. On a writ of error, from the Common Pleas, on a note whereby defendant promised to pay A. or order £150, six weeks after the death of his father. The court held this to be a negotiable note within the statute, and that the distance of time of payment was no objection, as the event on which it was payable, the death of the defendant's father must happen; and see *Ex parte Mitford*, 1 Bro. C. C. 398; but see *Ex parte Barker*, 9 Ves. jun. 110.

³ *Goss v. Nelson*, 1 Burr. 226. Action on a note payable to an infant, "when he (the infant) shall come of age, to wit, 12th June, 1750," and it was objected, in arrest of judgment, that it was uncertain whether the money would ever have been payable, because the infant might have died under 21, but the court held it a good note, because it was payable at all events on the 12th June, 1750, though the infant should have died before that time, and see 2 Bla. Com. 513.

⁴ *Colehan v. Cooke*, Willes, 398.—*Andrews v. Franklin*, 1 Stra. 24. *Evans v. Underwood*, 1 Wils. 262.—*Dawkes v. De Loraine*, 3 Wils. 213. 2 Bla. Rep. 782. S. C.—*Lewis v. Orde*, Gilb. Ev. 172.—*Hill v. Halford*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 414, 5. *sed vide* Kyd, 58.

were formerly always holden to be good, because though the fairs on which the payment of them depended were not always holden at a certain time, yet it was certain that they would be holden¹. So it has been reported to have been decided, that if a bill or note be payable two months after a certain ship be paid off², or be payable on the receipt of the payee's wages, due to him from a certain ship, it is valid³; but this latter decision seems questionable⁴.

Their general
requisites.

The statement of a particular fund, in a bill of exchange, will not vitiate it, if it be inserted, merely as a direction to the drawee, how to reimburse himself; and therefore, a bill requesting the drawee, one month after date, to pay the plaintiff, or his order, a certain sum of money "as my quarterly half-pay, to be due from the 24th June to the 27th September next by advance," was decided to be a valid bill⁵, because it

¹ Per Willes, C. J. in delivering judgment in *Colehan v. Cooke*, Willes, Rep. 394.

² *Andrews v. Franklin*, 1 Stra. 24. A note, payable two months after a certain ship should be paid off, was objected to, as depending upon a contingency which might never happen; but per cur. the paying off the ship is a thing of a public nature, and this is negotiable as a promissory note.—Bayl. 3d ed. 15.—See also Selw. N. P. 4th ed. 367.

³ *Evans v. Underwood*, 1 Wils. 262. This was an action brought by an indorsee against the maker, upon a note, payable on the receipt of the payee's wages from his majesty's ship the Suffolk; the court thought this case like that of *Andrews v. Franklin*, and after looking into that case ARE SAID to have given judgment for the plaintiff. Upon this case there is a note in Bayley on Bills, 3d ed. 15, as follows: "*Quære tamen*, because it was uncertain, though the wages might be paid, whether the maker would receive them."—See also *Lewis v. Orde*, 1 Gilb. on Evid. by Loft, 178.—Selw. N. P. 4th ed. 367, note 71.

⁴ In Selw. N. P. 4th ed. 367, note 71, there is a note upon this point, and in the conclusion is stated the case of *Beardesley v. Baldwin*, E. 15 G. 2. B. R. MSS. in which the court said, that as to *Andrews v. Franklin*, if it ever was determined, which they could not find, it must have been decided on the certainty observed in the return of ships, and which must be looked upon as an event in itself not contingent. *Sed quære*.

⁵ *M'Leod v. Snee*, Stra. 762.—Ld. Raym. 1481.—11 Mod. 400.—1 Barn. 12. S. C. Error on a judgment, given against M'Leod, on a bill of exchange, drawn by J. S. on the 25th May, 1724, upon M'Leod, and directed him, one month after the date, to pay A. B. or order £9: 10s. as his quarter's half-pay from 24th June, 1724, to 25th September following. The court were of opinion that this was

Their general
requisites.

would be payable, though the half-pay might never become due; and an order from the *freighter* of a ship, to pay money on account of freight is sufficient, because it is an admission that so much at least is due¹; though we have seen that an order from the *owner* of a ship, to the freighter, to pay money on account of freight, is not valid². Nor will a bill be vitiated, by the insertion of words, pointing out the consideration of the acceptance: as for instance, "value received out of the premises in Rosemary-lane³"; or "being a portion of a value as under deposited in security for the payment hereof⁴," or on account of wine had of the drawer⁵. A note also, whereby the maker promised to pay to A. B. £8. "so much being to be due from me to C. D. my landlady, at Lady-next, who is indebted in that sum to A. B." was, on the same principle, held not to be conditional⁶.

Their parts and
particular requisites.

Besides these principal qualities which bills of exchange must possess, there are certain other matters proper to be attended to in the formation of them:

a good bill of exchange, for it was *not* payable out of a particular fund, nor upon a contingency, and was made payable at all events; and was drawn upon the general credit of the drawer, not out of the half-pay, for it is payable as soon as the quarter began for the half-pay mentioned in the bill, which was not to be due for three months after.

¹ Pierson v. Dunlop, Cowp. 571. vide ante, 58.

² Banbury v. Lissett, Stra. 1112. vide ante, 58.

³ Burchell, administrator, &c. v. Slocock, Lord Raym. 1545.—Action on a promissory note, whereby the defendant promised to pay to A. B. £101:12s. in three months after the date of the said note, value received, out of premises in Rosemary-lane, late in the possession of G. H.

The court, upon demurrer, held this to be a promissory note within the statute, and gave judgment for the plaintiff.

⁴ Haussoullier v. Hartsinck and others, 7 T. R. 733: Payee against the maker of a promissory note, whereby the defendant promised to pay —, or bearer, £25, being a portion of a value as under deposited, in security for the payment thereof. Upon a special case being reserved, the court said they were clearly of opinion, that though as between the original parties to the transaction, the payment of the notes was to be carried to a particular account, the defendants were liable on these notes, which were payable at all events. See also Lord Raym. 1545.

⁵ Buller v. Cripps, 6 Mod. 29.—Mod. Ent. 312.

⁶ Anonymous, Select Cases, 39.

these are, *1st*, that in certain cases the instrument be properly stamped. *2dly*, that it be properly dated. *3dly*, that the time of payment be clearly expressed. *4thly*, that it contain an order, or at least a request, to pay. *5thly*, that in the case of a foreign bill drawn in sets, each set contain a proviso that it shall only be payable in case the others are not paid. *6thly*, that it be clearly expressed to whom the bill is payable. *7thly*, that where the instrument is intended to be negotiated, there be words inserted, giving the power of transfer. *8thly*, that the money to be paid, be distinctly and intelligibly expressed, and in certain cases, that it be above a certain amount. *9thly*, that in certain cases, value received be inserted. *10thly*, that under particular circumstances, a bill state whether it is to be paid with or without further advice. *11thly*, that the drawer's name be clearly signed. *12thly*, that the bill be properly addressed to the drawee. And *lastly*, that where the bill is to be paid at a certain place, that place be properly described. The better mode of considering each of these matters, will be by presenting the reader with the usual forms of a foreign and inland bill of exchange, and of a check, and then considering the various parts of each in their natural order.

Their parts and particular requisites.

FORM OF A FOREIGN BILL.

No. ^{2°} ³
London, 1st January, 1798. ⁴ *Exchange for 10,000 Livres Tournoises.*
⁵ ⁶
¹ *At two months (or "at ... after sight," or "at ... after date,") pay*
Stamp. ⁷ ⁸ *this my first Bill of Exchange (second and third of the same tenor and date*
⁹ ¹⁰ ¹¹
not paid) to Messrs. _____, or order ("or bearer") Ten Thousand Livres Tournoises,
¹² ¹³ ¹⁴
value received of them, and place the same to account, as per advice from
¹⁶ ¹⁷ ¹⁵
To Mr. _____, in Paris, } *JAMES OATLAND.*
¹⁸ *payable at _____.*

FORM OF AN INLAND BILL.

⁴ *£100.* ² ³ *London, 1st January, 1798.*
⁵
¹ *Two Months after date (or "at sight," or "on demand," or "at .. days*
Stamp. ⁶ ⁹ ¹⁰ ¹¹
after sight,") pay Mr. _____, or order, One Hundred Pounds, for value
¹²
received.
¹⁶ ¹⁵
To Mr. _____, Merchant, } *SAMUEL SKINNER.*
¹⁷ ¹⁸
Bristol, payable at _____.

FORM OF A BILL UNDER FIVE POUNDS.

As directed by Stat. 17 Geo. III. c. 30, Schedule No. 2.
[Here insert the place, day, month, and year, when and where made.]
Twenty-one days after date, pay to A. B. of _____, or his order, the sum
of _____, value received by
C. D.
To E. F. of _____, }
Witness G. H. _____, }

FORM OF A CHECK.

⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁻⁵⁾
London, 5th October, 1798.
⁽¹⁶⁻¹⁷⁾
¹ *Messrs.*
⁽⁶⁾ ⁽⁹⁾ ⁽¹⁰⁾ ⁽¹¹⁾
Pay A. B. or bearer, Twenty Pounds.
⁽⁴⁾ ⁽¹⁵⁾
£20 0 0 *J. K.*

* The Figures refer to the parts of the observations in the following pages of this chapter.

(1)—Before the statute of the 22 Geo. 3. c. 33. ^{1st, Stamp duty.} there was no *stamp duty* imposed on bills of exchange, &c. and they were in all cases made on plain unstamped paper, and, indeed, were expressly exempted from any stamp duty, by the 5th W. & M. c. 21. s. 5.; but by the first mentioned statute certain duties were imposed in almost all cases upon these instruments. This and two subsequent statutes, (23 Geo. 3. c. 49. & 24 Geo. 3. s. 1. c. 7.) were repealed by the 31 Geo. 3. c. 25. whereby certain duties were imposed, and which were increased by the 37 Geo. 3. c. 90. and which continued in force until the 10th October, 1804, from which day until the 11th October, 1808, the 44 Geo. 3. c. 98. regulated the *amount of the duty* on bills, notes, &c.; from that day until the 28th September, 1815, the duties on bills and notes were regulated by the 48 Geo. 3. c. 149. and from the last mentioned period to the present time (1818), the regulating statute is the 55 Geo. 3. c. 184.

By this act, with respect to *Inland Bills* of Exchange, whether negotiable or not, a distinction is made in the amount of the stamp between bills and notes, payable at a time not exceeding two months or sixty days after date, and those exceeding that time, and a penalty of £100 is imposed on any person post dating, or issuing any bill or note so post dated, so as to avoid the higher duty¹. It is also provided, that all drafts or orders for the payment of money by a bill or promissory note, or for the delivery of any such bill or note in payment or satisfaction of any money, shall be liable to the like stamp duty as a bill or note. There are other provisions in the act which will be found in the Appendix.

Provisions of the
stamp act, 55 Geo.
3. c. 184.

A *foreign* bill drawn in, but payable out of Great Britain, if drawn singly and not in a set, is liable to the same duty as an inland bill of the same amount and tenor. But foreign bills drawn in Great Britain, in

¹ Sec. 12. See clause post, App.

1st, Stamp duty. sets, are subject to a stamp duty, progressively increasing according to the amount for every bill of each set¹. It is also provided, that *promissory notes* made out of *Great Britain*, shall not be negotiated or paid in Great Britain, unless the same shall have paid the duty on promissory notes of the like tenor and value in Great Britain, with an exception of notes made and payable only in Ireland².

Exemptions from these stamp duties are made in favour of *bills* or bank post bills, issued by the Bank of England, and of all bills, orders, remittance bills, and remittance certificates, drawn by commissioned officers, masters, and surgeons in the navy, or by any commissioner of the navy, and other bills drawn by or upon persons in certain public employments, and also in favour of drafts or orders for the payment of money to the bearer on demand, and drawn upon any banker or person acting as a banker, residing or transacting the business of a banker, within ten miles of the place where such draft or order shall be issued, provided such place shall be specified in such draft or order, and the same shall bear date on or before the day on which the same shall be issued, and provided the same do not direct the payment to be made by bills or promissory notes.

With respect to *promissory notes*, a distinction is made in the amount of the duty, between those which are payable at a time exceeding two months after date, or sixty days after sight, and those payable at a longer period, and also between those intended to be re-issued after payment, and those which cannot be so circulated³, and notes for the payment of money by instalments, are subject to the same duty as on a promissory note payable in less than two months after date, for a sum equal to the whole amount of the money to be paid, and

¹ 55 Geo. 3. c. 184. Schedule 1.

² Id. sect. 29.

³ 55 Geo. 3. c. 184. Schedule 1. tit. Promissory Note.

negotiable instruments in the form of promissory notes, ^{1st, Stamp duty.} and for the payment of less than £20, upon a contingency, whether available or not, are, nevertheless, liable to the stamp duty ¹.

Exemptions are introduced in favour of notes of the governor and company of the Bank of England, and of notes payable upon a contingency, and exceeding £20, but it is nevertheless provided that the latter shall be liable to the duty which may attach thereon as agreements or otherwise.

The penalty of £50 is imposed upon any person who shall make, sign, or issue, or cause to be made, signed, or issued, or shall accept or pay, or cause or permit to be accepted or paid, any bill of exchange, draft or order, or promissory note for the payment of money liable to any of the duties imposed by the act, without the same being duly stamped ². *Penalties* are also imposed upon persons drawing, receiving, or paying any post dated or other unstamped draft on a banker, not made conformably to the act ³. *Regulations* are then made relative to re-issuable notes, and for the licences to bankers drawing and issuing such notes ⁴; and it is provided, that all the powers, regulations, and penalties contained in and imposed by the several acts of parliament relating to the duties thereby repealed, and the several acts of parliament relating to any prior duties of the same kind or description, shall be of full force and effect relative to the duties thereby granted ⁵. Hence therefore most of the decisions on the former acts, are applicable to the existing stamp duties on bills and notes.

With respect to *foreign* bills, it is clear, that the legislature did not mean to extend the stamp duties, ^{Decisions on the statutes relative to stamps.}

¹ 55 Geo. 3. c. 184. Schedule 1. tit. Promissory Note.

² Id. ibid. sect. 11.

³ Id. sect. 13.

⁴ Id. sect. 14. to sect. 28.

⁵ Id. sect. 8.

Decisions on the statutes relative to stamps.

imposed by these acts to such foreign bills as are made abroad, where the use of them could not be enforced; and it may be collected from the language of the acts, that the duty is only imposed on bills drawn in Great Britain¹. And where a bill was drawn in Ireland, and blanks left for the date, sum, time when payable, and the name of the drawee, and transmitted to England, where it was completed and negotiated, it was held, that this was to be considered as a bill of exchange, from the time of signing and indorsing it in Ireland, and that an English stamp was not necessary². So where a bill of exchange was drawn in Jamaica, upon a stamp of that island, with a blank for the payee's name, and transmitted to England, where a *bouâ fide* holder filled in his own name as payee, it was considered, that no English stamp was necessary³; but if a bill be drawn in England, though dated at some foreign place, such bill cannot be enforced here without an English stamp⁴.

With respect to the amount of the sum payable, it was recently made a question, whether a stamp for the exact amount of £50 was sufficient for a bill for that sum, with all legal interest, it was contended, that the stamp was insufficient, because the bill was to carry interest from the date, and therefore a larger sum was payable upon it than £50; but it is reported, that Lord Ellenborough inclined to think the stamp sufficient, as there was no interest due when the bill was drawn, and it was then a security for the sum of £50, and no more; and as there is always interest to be recovered, if the bill be not paid the day it becomes due. The case afterwards came before the court, when it was decided upon another point, and

¹ 55 Geo. 3. c. 184.—Crutchley v. Mann, 1 Marsh. 29.

² Snaith v. Mingay, 1 M. & S. 87.

³ Crutchley v. Mann, 5 Taunt. 529.—1 Marsh. 29. S. C.

⁴ Jordaine v. Lashbrook, 7 T. R. 601.—Abraham v. Du Bois, 4 Campb. 269.

no opinion was given as to the sufficiency of the stamp ¹. Decisions on the statutes relative to stamp.

It has been holden, that a bill payable at sight, is not to be considered as a bill payable on demand, so as to be exempt from duty, under the stamp act, 23 Geo. 3. c. 49. s. 4. in favour of bills payable on demand ².

Upon the exempting clause in the former acts, in favour of checks on bankers, it has been holden, that the person on whom the check is drawn, must be bonâ fide a banker ³, and that a draft on a banker, post dated, and delivered before the day of the date, though not intended to be used till that day, must be stamped, or will be void ⁴.

It was provided by statute 31 Geo. 3. c. 25. s. 19. (to which 55 Geo. 3. c. 184. s. 7. refers,) that unless the paper on which a bill or note be written, be stamped with the proper duty, or a higher duty, it shall not be pleaded or given in evidence in any court, or admitted to be good, useful, or available, in law or

¹ Israel v. Benjamin, 3 Campb. 40.

² l'Anson v. Thomas, B. R. Trin. 24 Geo. 3.—Bayl. 42. In an action on an inland bill, the question was, whether it was included under an exception in the stamp act of 23 Geo. 3. c. 49. s. 4. in favour of bills payable on demand, and the court held it was not; and Buller, J. mentioned a case before Willes, C. J. in London, in which a jury of merchants was of opinion, that the usual days of grace were to be allowed on bills payable at sight. See also Dehors v. Harriot, 1 Show. 164.

³ Castleman v. Ray, 2 Bos. & Pul. 383. Action for money had and received: defendant pleaded set-off as to part, and produced the following paper, unstamped, in evidence, to support his plea:—

Mr. Castleman,

Please to pay the bearer £——, his receipt will be your discharge from
T. M.

Standgate, 3d Sept. 1790.

Mr. Castleman, Bricklayer,
Camberwell.

Paid by R. Ray,
for C. Castleman.

The defendant objected to this paper being received in evidence, as not falling within section 4. of 23 Geo. 3. c. 49. Castleman not being a banker; and Chambre, J. before whom the cause was tried, being of that opinion, a verdict was found for the plaintiff, and the court, upon motion, refused a rule for a new trial. See also Ruff v. Webb, 1 Esp. Rep. 129.

⁴ Allen v. Keeses, 1 East. 435.—Whitwell v. Bennet, 3 Bos. & Pul. 559.

Decisions on the
statute's relative
to stamps.

equity; and that it shall not be lawful for the commissioners, or their officers, to stamp any bill or note after it is made; and though, upon this statute, it has been held, that if the commissioners exceed their authority, and do stamp the bill or note after it has been made, no defence can be established, to an action founded on the bill or note, on that ground, because it would be injurious to paper credit, if it were necessary for an indorsee to ascertain, before he takes a bill, whether or not it was stamped previously to its having been made¹; yet, according to more recent decisions, it should seem, that, at least, if the instrument be in the hands of the party, in whose favour it was originally made, a subsequent stamping would not render it available against such positive enactment².

It being found that the above statute frequently defeated the claims of the holders of bills, the legislature passed a *temporary act*³, whereby the commissioners of His Majesty's stamp duties, on proof by the holder that no fraud on the revenue was intended, were authorized to stamp bills, &c. after they were drawn, on payment of a certain penalty; but as the power of commissioners under this act has long since expired⁴, and as bills and notes are excepted in the 43 Geo. 3. c. 127. s. 5. and 44 Geo. 3. c. 98. s. 24. the holder of a bill has no civil remedy thereon, if it be either *unstamped*, or bear a stamp of an *inferior* value to that required by the acts, or be of a different denomination⁵.

¹ Wright v. Riley, Peake Rep. 173.

² Roderick v. Hovil, 3 Campb. 103.—Rapp v. Allnut, id. 106. in notis.

³ 34 Geo. 3. c. 32.

⁴ Bayl. 26. in notes.—Phil. Evid. 3d. ed. 459. n. *.

⁵ In criminal prosecutions, the want of a proper stamp is not in general an available objection. See the cases, 1 Chitty Crim. Law, 582 to 584.—Phillips on Evid. 3d ed. 454 to 458. And as to the instances in which an unstamped bill or note may be given in evidence, see 3 Bos. & Pul. 316.—Peake Rep. 75.—15 East. 449. 455.—Phillips Law of Evid. 3d ed. 403. 454. In Gregory v. Frazer,

An authority, however, was given to the commissioners by 37 Geo. 3. c. 136. s. 4. to stamp bills, checks, and notes, with the additional stamp duty imposed by 37 Geo. 3. c. 90. at any time before the 1st November, 1797, without any penalty, and the following section (which appears to be still in force¹) provides, that any bill, &c. made after the passing of the 37 Geo. 3. c. 136. and liable to any stamp duty under 31 Geo. 3. c. 25. and which shall be stamped with a stamp of a different denomination from that required by that act, may, if the stamp be of *equal* or *superior* value to the stamp required, be stamped with the proper stamp, on payment of the proper duty, and 40s. if the bill be not due, or £10. if due; and the commissioners are thereupon to give a receipt for the duty and penalty so paid, on the back of the bill, and such bill will be valid in any court. Previously to this act, a bill stamped with an improper stamp was valid, provided it was a stamp required under 31 Geo. 3. c. 25. and was of the same or greater value than the proper one²; but where, in an action on a note by an indorsee, the stamp appeared to be a 7s. deed stamp, Lord Kenyon said the note could not be received in evidence, and the plaintiff was accordingly nonsuited³.

Decisions on the statutes relative to stamps.

Previously to the enactment in the 43 Geo. 3. c. 127. it was held that a promissory note for £25 : 5s. written upon a 9d. stamp (being the stamp imposed by 31 Geo. 3. c. 25. on notes not exceeding £50. but which

³ Campb. 454, it was held, that although a promissory note, without a stamp, cannot be received in evidence as a security, or to prove the loan of money, it may be looked at with a view to ascertain a collateral fact; and therefore, in this case, the action being for money lent, and the defence was, that the defendant had been made drunk by the plaintiff, and induced to sign the note, without any consideration, Lord Ellenborough held, that the note might be looked at by the jury as a cotemporary writing, to prove or disprove the fraud imputed to the plaintiff.

¹ Chamberlain v. Porter, 1 New. Rep. 30.

² 31 Geo. 3. c. 25. s. 19. Chamberlain v. Porter, 1 New. Rep. 34.

³ Manning v. Livie, cor. Lord Kenyon, sittings after M. T. 1796. Bayl. 37. n. (a).

Decisions on the statutes relative to stamps.

at the time of the making of the note had ceased to be the proper stamp or any note whatever,) instead of an 8*d.* stamp, (being that required by 37 Geo. 3. c. 90. on notes not exceeding £30.) was void¹; but it is afterwards held, that a promissory note for £45. which by law required a stamp of 1*s.*:6*d.* composed of three different sums, applicable to three different funds, under three acts of parliament, being written on a 2*s.* stamp, composed of three different sums, *applicable to the same funds*, though in *larger* proportions to each than was required, such note is good². To obviate the objection on account of a larger stamp being imposed than was necessary, it was enacted by the 43 Geo. 3. c. 127. s. 6. that, every instrument, matter, or thing, stamped with a stamp of *greater* value than required by law, shall be valid, provided such stamp shall be of the denomination required by law for such instrument, &c. and by the recent act 55 Geo. 3. c. 184. s. 10. it is provided, that all instruments upon which any stamp duty shall have been used, of an improper denomination or rate of duty, but of equal or greater value in the whole with the proper stamp, shall be valid, except where the stamp used on such instrument shall have been specifically appropriated to any other instrument, by having its name on the face.

Under the former acts, qualifying the right to re-issue bills after payment, it has been determined, that after a bill has been returned to, and paid by the drawer, he may, without a fresh stamp, indorse the bill over to a new party, who may in his own name sue the acceptor, because the prohibition against re-issuing after payment imports only a payment by the acceptor³.

If a bill or note be made in any part of the King's dominions, as in Jamaica, where by the law of

¹ Farr v. Price, 1 East. 55. see observations in Bayley, 37.

² Taylor v. Hague, 2 East. 414.

³ Callow v. Lawrence, 3 M. & S. 95.

such place a stamp is required, such instrument cannot be recovered upon in any court here, unless properly stamped, according to the law of the place where the same was made¹; but our courts do not regard the Revenue Laws of a foreign independent State².

Decisions on the statutes relative to stamps.

When a bill of exchange or promissory note is not properly stamped, it has been held, that a neglect to present it for acceptance or for payment, will not discharge the drawer or indorser from liability to pay the original debt, in respect of which it was indorsed or delivered to the holder³; and if there be any such original debt, between the holder and such drawer or indorser, the holder, though he cannot recover upon such instrument, may nevertheless sustain his action for such original debt⁴. But where there is no pri-

¹ *Alves v. Hodson*, 7 T. R. 241.—2 Esp. Rep. 528. S. C.—*Clegg v. Levy*, 3 Campb. 166.

² *Roach v. Edie*, 6 T. R. 425.—*Boucher v. Lawrence*, Rep. Temp. Hardw. 198.—*Holman v. Johnson*, Cowp. 343.—*Clugas v. Penaluna*, 4 T. R. 467.—*Park. on Ins.* 7th ed. 390.—*Marsh. on Ins.* 1st ed. 51, 55. in which this point is discussed.

³ *Wilson v. Vysar*, 4 Taunt. 288. Action for goods sold, defence, payment. A bill drawn by H. on B. and accepted by the latter, and indorsed by defendant to plaintiff, for such goods. It was not presented for payment when due, and in consequence of the laches, payment was refused by the drawer and the defendant. To rebut this defence, the plaintiff proved that the bill was drawn on a stamp of inferior value to that received by the statute and therefore could not be given in evidence for the defendant, it was then proved, that if it had been presented at maturity, it would have been paid; but the court held, that as the bill was not properly stamped, they could not consider it as payment.

Ruff v. Webb, 1 Esp. Rep. 129. Assumpsit, for work and labour, and it was decided, that a draft in these words "Mr. R. will much oblige Mr. W. by paying to I. R. or order £20. on his account," was a bill of exchange, and could not be given in evidence without a stamp, and also that such draft, although taken without objection by the party at the time, was not any discharge of the subsisting debt.

But in *Swears v. Wells*, 1 Esp. Rep. 317. Where a creditor had agreed to take part of his debt in hand, and a note for the remainder at a future day, but which note was by mistake given upon a wrong stamp, it was held, that having taken the money to be paid in hand, he was compellable to wait till the time when such security would become due, unless in the mean time the party had refused to give a note properly stamped, and see *Chamberlain v. Delarive*, 2 Wils. 353.

⁴ See the cases in the last note, and *Brown v. Watts*, 1 Taunt. 353. *Alves v. Hodson*, 7 T. R. 243. and *Tyte v. Jones*, cited 1 East. 58. n. (a).—*Puckford v. Maxwell*, 6 T. R. 52.—*White v. Wilson*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 118.—*Wilson v. Kennedy*, 1 Esp. Rep. 245.—*Wade v. Beazeley*, 4 Esp. 7.

Decisions on the
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to stamps.

vity between the plaintiff and the defendant, as in the case of a remote indorsee and the acceptor, the former will have no remedy against the latter, if the stamp be defective, and not remediable by the above provisions, and a court of equity will not in general afford him relief¹. But where a party had entered into an express agreement, to give a valid note, and had given one upon an improper stamp, a court of equity enforced the delivery of a valid note²; and if a defendant in an action at law, pay money into court, upon the whole declaration, he is precluded from objecting to the sufficiency of the stamp on which the bill was drawn³.

rdly, Place where
made.

(2)—It is proper, in all cases, to superscribe the name of the place where the bill is really made, and when the maker is not a person well known in the commercial world, it is advisable for him to mention the number of his house, and the street in which he resides, in order that the holder may be the better enabled to find him out, in case his responsibility is doubted, or in case acceptance, or payment is refused by the drawee. According to the form in the schedule contained in the 17 Geo. 3. c. 30. in certain cases where bills are under £5. it is absolutely necessary to insert the name of the place where they are made; and if this be omitted in a check on a banker it will not be exempt from the stamp duties imposed by the 55 Geo. 3. c. 184. and the prior acts.

sdly, Date.

(3)—As the *time, when a bill is to become due*, is generally regulated by the time when it was made, the *date* of the instrument ought to be clearly expressed⁴, and although it is the common practice, to write the date in figures, yet, in order to prevent intentional, or accidental alteration, which may invalidate the instru-

¹ Toulmin v. Price, 5 Ves. jun. 240.

² Aylett v. Bennett, 1 Anstr. 45.—2 Bridgm. 538.

³ Israel v. Benjamin, 3 Campb. 40.

⁴ Beawes, pl. 3.—Mar. 2d edit. 91.—Pardessus, Cours de Droit Commercial, 1 tom. 348.

ment, even in the hands of an innocent holder¹, it may be advisable to write the date at full length in words, and it has been recently enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any banker or other person to issue any promissory note for the payment of money to the bearer on demand, liable to any of the duties imposed by the act, with the date printed therein, under a penalty of £50². There is no legal objection to a bill being dated on a Sunday³; and the date of a bill or note is *prima facie* evidence of its having been made on the day of the date⁴. A date, however, is not, in general, essential to the validity of a bill, for where a bill has no date, the time, if necessary to be inquired into, will be computed from the day it was issued⁵; and if a bill of exchange be made payable two months after date, and no date be expressed, the court will intend it to be payable two months after the day on which it was made⁶. A check, if post dated and not stamped, we have seen is invalid⁷; and though it has been decided that a bill of exchange may be post dated⁸; yet we have seen that this cannot be done so as to postpone the payment for more than two months or sixty days from the time it is issued, unless the

¹ *Master v. Miller*, 4 T. R. 320.

² 55 Geo. 3. c. 184. s. 18.

³ *Drury v. De Fontaine*, 1 Taunt. 131.

⁴ *Taylor v. Kinlock*, 1 Stark. 175. The date upon a promissory note made by a bankrupt of a time antecedent to an act of bankruptcy, is *prima facie* evidence to shew that the note existed before the act of bankruptcy was committed, so as to establish a petitioning creditor's debt in an action by the assignees.

⁵ *Armit v. Breame*, 2 Lord Raym. 1076. 1082. An award which directed the removal of some scaffolds within 58 days from the date of the award, had no date; an objection being taken upon this ground, the court said the time was to be computed from the delivery. See also 2 Show. 422.—*Goddard's Case*, 2 Co. 5. (a).—*Scl. Ni. Pri.* 283, *Bac. Ab. Leases*, l. 1.—*Com. Dig. Fait*, B. 3.

⁶ *De la Courtier v. Bellamy*, 2 Show. 422. Case on a foreign bill of exchange, payable at double usance from the date, and it was alleged that the party beyond the sea drew the bill on a certain day, and that the same was presented to and accepted by the defendant. Exception, that the date of the bill was not set forth. The court said that they would intend the date of the bill from the drawing of it. See also *Hague v. French*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 173. S. P.

⁷ *Ante*, 71, n. 4.

⁸ *Pasmore v. North*, 13 East. 517.

3dly, Date.

increased duty be paid¹. By the statute 17 Geo. 3. c. 30. however, it is enacted, that all bills of exchange, or drafts in writing, being negotiable, or transferable, for the payment of twenty shillings, or any sum of money above that sum, and less than five pounds, or on which twenty shillings, or above that sum, and less than five pounds, shall remain undischarged, shall bear date before or at the time of drawing or issuing thereof, and not on any day subsequent thereto.

4thly, Sum payable.

(4)—There is no necessity for the *superscription of the sum* for which the bill is payable, provided it be mentioned in the body of the bill; but the superscription will aid an omission in the body²; and it is the advice of Beawes³, that the sum payable be expressed so distinctly both in words and figures, that no exception can be taken to the instrument; and it is now the usual mode, to superscribe the sum payable, in figures at the head of the instrument, and in words in the body of it.—In drawing a check on a banker, the sum is generally subscribed.

5thly, Time and place of payment.

(5)—By a French ordinance, it was required that bills of exchange made in that country, should express *the time when they were to be paid*, or otherwise they would be invalid⁴; but there being no positive regulation affecting bills in this country, they would be valid, although no time be mentioned in them, and would operate, as in the case of a check on a banker, as

¹ Ante, 67, and 55 Geo. 3. 184. s. 12.

² Elliot's Case, 2 East. Pleas Crown, 951, on an indictment for forging the following note:—

No. 17. 73.

I promise to pay Mr. I. C. or bearer, on demand, the sum of fifty

London, 20 June, 1795.

£ Fifty

For Governor and Company of the
Bank of England,

Entered C. Blewart.

Thos. Thompson.

The forgery being proved, it was urged for the defendant, that this was not a note for fifty pounds, as the word "pounds" was not inserted; and judgment was respited for the opinion of the judges, who all agreed that the £ fifty in the margin removed every doubt, and shewed that the fifty in the body of the note was intended for pounds.

³ Beawes, tit. Bills of Exchange, pl. 3.—Marius, 139.

⁴ Poth. pl. 32.—Pardessus droit Commercial, 1 tom. 352.

payable on demand¹. It is advisable, however, in all cases, to express the time of payment as clearly and intelligibly as possible², and it is therefore usual to write it in words, particularly as they are less subject to alteration than figures; and where a bill is drawn in one country using one style, and payable in a country using another, it is said that the drawer sometimes makes the date both according to the old and new style³.

5thly, Time and place of payment.

With respect to the *time when payment* is to be made, it depends entirely on the agreement of the parties, and there is no limitation in point of law, though the payment must not be contingent⁴. But by the 17th Geo. 3. c. 30. negotiable bills and drafts under £5, of the description above mentioned, must be payable within twenty-one days after the day of the date thereof. The operation of this act is suspended with respect to drafts payable to bearer on demand, by the statute 37 Geo. 3. c. 32. and other subsequent acts. Foreign bills are frequently drawn payable at usance, or usances, but they, like inland bills, may be drawn payable at sight, or at days, weeks, months, or years, after sight or date, or on demand: bills, however, are very seldom drawn payable on demand; but usually, when it is intended they should be payable immediately, are drawn payable at sight. If drawn at sight, the drawer of a foreign bill should express that it is payable according to the course of exchange at the time of making it⁵; for otherwise, it seems that the drawee must pay according to the exchange of the day when he has sight of the bill. Checks on bankers very seldom express any time when they are to be paid; and consequently, as will be seen

¹ *Boehm v. Sterling*, 7 T. R. 427.

² *Beawes*, pl. 3.

³ *Kyd*, 8.—*Mar.* 91.—*Bayl.* 113.

⁴ If a bill of exchange be made payable at never so distant a day, if it be a day that must come, it is no objection to the bill. Per *Willes*, C. J. in *Colehan v. Cooke*, *Willes*, 396.

⁵ "En especes au cours de ce jour." *Poth.* pl. 174.

5thly, Time and place of payment.

hereafter, are demandable immediately they are delivered to the payee or bearer.

With respect to the time when a bill drawn payable in either of these ways becomes due, the reader is referred to that part of the work which treats of the presentment for payment.

6thly, Request to pay.

(6)—If it be intended that the bill shall be payable at a particular place, the drawer should so frame the bill which he may do either in the body of the bill, or in the direction to the drawee, as by the words, “payable in London.” It is said by Beawes, in his *Lex Merc.*¹ that payment of a bill should be *ordered* and commanded; it is sufficient however, if it be requested²; and according to Marius, the direction to pay the money need not be contained in the body of the bill, or even on the same side of the paper, but this form is not recommended³.

7thly & 8thly, Of several parts.

(7, 8)—Inland bills, checks, and notes, consist only of one part, but foreign bills, in general, consist of *several parts*, in order that the bearer having lost one, may receive his money on the other⁴; but if the

¹ *Hodge v. Fillis*, 3 Campb. 463. post. This was an action by the indorsee against the acceptors of a bill of exchange, drawn in the following form:—

Cork, 12th April, 1813.

£2,314: 15s: 11d.

At two months date of this our first of exchange, (second and third of the same tenor and date not paid) pay to our order, £2,314: 15s: 11d. and charge the same to account as advised.

W. & A. Maxwell.

“To Messrs. Fillis & Co. Plymouth.”

“Payable in London.”

The bill was accepted by the defendants, payable at Sir John Per-
ring and Co. Bankers, London.

The plaintiffs failed to aver in their declaration, the presentment of the bill for payment at a London bankers, which the defendants, on the trial, contended was a material omission.

Lord Ellenborough expressed himself to be of the same opinion, but as the plaintiffs counsel, on the trial, proved a promise by defendants to pay the *bill after it became due*; Lord Ellenborough held, that that circumstance dispensed with direct evidence of a presentment for payment at the bankers, and therefore the plaintiffs had a verdict.

² Pl. 3.

³ *Morris v. Lee*, Ld. Raym. 1397.—*Brown v. Harraden*, 4 T. R. 149.—*Ruff v. Webb*, 1 Esp. Rep. 129.

⁴ Mar. 11.—*Brown v. Harraden*, 4 T. R. 149.

⁵ Poth. pl. 39.—Bayl. 18, 180.

drawer only give one bill, he will, if it should be lost, be obliged to give another of the same date, to the loser¹. The several parts of a foreign bill are called a *set*; each part contains a condition, that it shall be paid, *provided the others remain unpaid*; in other respects all are of the same tenor. This condition should be inserted in each part, and should in each mention every other part of the set; for if a person, intending to make a set of three parts, should omit the condition in the first, and make the second with a condition, mentioning the first only, and in the third alone take notice of the other two, he might perhaps in some cases be obliged to pay each; for it would be no defence to an action by a bonâ fide holder on the second, that he had paid the third, nor to an action on the first, that he had paid either of the others². But an omission is not perhaps material, which upon the face of the condition must necessarily have arisen from a mistake, as if in the enumeration of the several parts, one of the intermediate parts were to be omitted, for instance, “pay this my first of exchange, second and fourth not paid³.” Each of the parts when drawn in Great Britain, must be stamped⁴. Where a bill consists of several parts, each ought to be delivered to the payee, unless one be forwarded to the drawee for acceptance, otherwise there may be difficulties in negotiating the bill, or obtaining payment⁵. The forgery of an indorsement of the payee on one of the parts, will not pass any interest, even to a bonâ fide holder, and the real payee may sustain an action on the other part⁶.

7thly & 8thly, Of several parts.

(9)—A bill of exchange and promissory note must specify *to whom it is to be paid*, for it is said that other-

9thly, To whom payable.

¹ Poth. pl. 39.

² Davison v. Robertson, 3 Dow. 218, 228.—Bayl. 19. Beawes, 450.—Poth. 111.

³ Bayl. 19.

⁴ Ante, 67, 8, 9.

⁵ Bayl. 19.

⁶ Cheap v. Harley, cited in 3 T. R. 127.

9thly, To whom payable.

wise it will be merely waste paper¹; but Pothier² observes, that if the drawer have omitted to mention any person to whom the bill is to be paid, declaring in the bill, however, from whom he has received the value, it is but reasonable to construe the instrument to be payable to that person. And it is now settled, that if a bill of exchange be drawn and negotiated, and a blank left for the name of the payee, a bonâ fide holder may fill it up with his own name, and recover against the drawer³. But in an action against an acceptor the holder must prove an authority from the drawer for inserting his name as payee⁴. Care also should be taken that the name be properly spelled, though if there be a mistake, parol evidence is admissible to shew who was intended⁵. Where there are two persons of the same name, it is advisable to describe the payee in

¹ Per Eyre, *C. B. Gibson v. Minet*, 1 Hen. Bla. 608.

² Pl. 31.

³ *Cruchley v. Clarence*, 2 M. & S. 90. An action against the defendant as drawer of a bill of exchange, the bill had been drawn on one Henry Mann, and a blank left for the name of the payee; the bill had been negotiated by one Vashon and indorsed to the plaintiff, who filled up the blank with his own name, and upon the trial a verdict was found for the plaintiff; the court afterwards refused to set aside the verdict, and observed, that as the defendant had chosen to send the bill into the world in this form, the world ought not to be deceived by his acts, and that by leaving the blank, he undertook to be answerable for it when filled up in the shape of a bill; see also *Usher v. Dauncey*, 4 Campb. 97. and see *Powell v. Duff*, 3 Campb. 182. The issuing of a bill with a blank for the payee's name was expressly prohibited in France, see post, 83. n. 6.

⁴ *Crutchley v. Mann*, 1 Marsh. 31.—5 Taunt. 529. S.C. This was an action on a bill of exchange drawn by one A. C. in Jamaica upon the defendant in London, with the name of the payee left in blank; the drawer delivered it to the person from whom the plaintiff received it, and plaintiff inserted his own name as payee. The bill was not accepted, but the plaintiff produced a letter from the defendant, which he contended amounted to an acceptance. The chief justice left the case to the jury, who found for the plaintiff, reserving two points for the opinion of the court; first as to the stamp, and secondly whether there was sufficient evidence that the plaintiff had authority to insert his name, or that the bill was that to which the letter alluded. A rule nisi having been obtained, and cause shewn, the court held, that the plaintiff ought to have proved that he was authorized to insert his name as payee; if he were to recover, as the case then stood, they did not know how the defendant could charge the drawer with the value of the bill, as he might say it was not the instrument which he delivered to the person from whom the plaintiff received it; see the last note.

⁵ *Beawes*, pl. 3.—*Willis v. Barrett*, 2 Stark. 21.

such a manner, that no mistake can arise¹; and if there be father and son of the same names, and it be intended to be payable to the son, he must be so described, because if the christian and surname only be stated, it will be intended for the father, until the contrary appear². However a mis-description of the character of the payee will not vitiate, provided it can from the whole instrument be collected who was the party intended³. Bills under £5. are by the statute 17th Geo. 2. c. 30., to express the names and places of abode of the *persons* respectively to whom or to whose order the same shall be payable. A bill may be drawn payable to bearer, and in such case it will be transferable by delivery⁴; and a bill or note payable to J. S. or bearer is in legal effect payable to the bearer and J. S. is a mere cypher⁵. In France, bills of this description were at first forbidden, but by a subsequent law they were established⁶. In that country, it appears that it was formerly usual to make bills payable to a person whose name was left in blank, in order that the holder of the bill, when he was desirous of not being known, might fill it up with any name he chose; but as these bills were employed as a cloak for usury and fraud, they were afterwards prohibited⁷. These bills seem to have been in the nature of those payable to a *fictitious payee*, the validity of which has been so frequently and fully discussed of late in our courts of justice; the result of which discussion seems to be, that a bill payable to a fictitious person or his order, is in effect a bill payable to bearer, and may be declared on as such against all the parties, knowing that the payee was a fictitious person⁸. The

9thly, To whom payable.

¹ Mead v. Young, 4 T. R. 28.

² Sweeting v. Fowler and another, 1 Stark. 106.

³ The King v. Box, 6 Taunt. 325.

⁴ Grant v. Vaughan, 3 Burr. 1526.—Bayl. 15.

⁵ Id. ibid.

⁶ Poth. pl. 221.

⁷ Arrêts de Reglements de la Cour du 7 Juin, 1611, et du Mars, 1624. and see Pardessus droit Commercial, 1 tom. 358.

⁸ Almost all the modern cases upon this question arose out of the bankruptcy of Livesay and Co. and Gibson and Co. who negotiated

9thly, To whom payable.

use of these fictitious names has been highly censured, and the person fraudulently indorsing the fictitious name on the bill, to give it currency, would be guilty of forgery¹. As it is not necessary, or essential to the

bills with fictitious names upon them, to the amount of nearly a *million sterling a year*. The first case was *Tatlock v. Harris*, 3 T. R. 174. in which the court of K. B. held that the *bonâ fide* holder for a valuable consideration of a bill drawn payable to a fictitious person, and indorsed in that name by the drawer, might recover the amount of it in an action against the acceptor, for money paid or money had and received; upon the idea, that there was an appropriation of so much money to be paid to the person who should become the holder of the bill. In *Vere v. Lewis*, 3 T. R. 182. decided the same day, the court held, there was no occasion to prove that the defendant had received any value for the bill, as the mere circumstance of his acceptance was sufficient evidence of this; and three of the judges thought the plaintiff might recover on a count which stated that the bill was drawn payable to *bearer*. *Minet v. Gibson*, 3 T. R. 481. put this point directly in issue, and the unanimous opinion of the court was, that where the circumstance of the payee being a fictitious person, is known to the acceptor, the bill is in effect payable to bearer. Soon after, the court of C. P. laid down the same doctrine in *Collis v. Emmet*, 1 Hen. Bla. 313. This decision was acquiesced in; but *Minet v. Gibson* was carried up to the House of Lords, 1 Hen. Bla. 569. The opinions of the judges being then given, Eyre, C. B. (p. 598.) and Heath, J. (p. 619.) were for reversing the judgment of the court below, and Lord Thurlow, C. coincided with them, (p. 625.) but the other judges thinking otherwise, judgment was affirmed. Parl. Cas. 8vo. ii. 48. The last case upon the subject reported is *Gibson v. Hunter*, 2 Hen. Bla. 187. 288. which came before the House of Peers upon a demurrer to evidence; and in which it was held, that in an action on a bill of this sort against the acceptor, to shew that he was aware of the payee being fictitious, evidence is admissible of the circumstances under which he had accepted other bills payable to fictitious persons. *Vide* also *Tuft's case*, Leach Cro. Law, 172. but in *Bennett v. Farnell*, (1 Campb. Ni. Pri. 130.) Lord Ellenborough, C. J. held, that a bill of exchange made payable to a fictitious person or his order, is neither in effect payable to the order of the drawer, nor to bearer, *but is completely void*; though if money paid by the holder of such a bill as the consideration for its being indorsed to him, *actually* gets into the hands of the acceptor, it may be recovered back as money had and received. However, from a subsequent observation, (1 Campb. 180. c.) it appears that the last case is to be taken with this qualification "unless it can be shewn that the circumstance of the payee being a fictitious person was known to the acceptor." A new trial was refused in this case, because no such evidence had been offered at *Nisi Prius*, and Lord Ellenborough said he conceived himself bound by *Minet v. Gibson*, and the other cases upon this subject, which had been carried up to the House of Lords, (though by no means disposed to give them any extension,) and that if it had appeared that the defendant knew the payee to be a fictitious person, he should have directed the jury to find for the plaintiff. See also *Ex parte Allen*, Co. B. L. 184. *Ex parte Clark*, 3 Bro. 238. Parl. Ca. 8vo. 9th vol. 235, 255. Cullen, 98.—1 Mont. B. L. 145.—Bayl. 22 to 24.—Sel. N. P. 4th ed. 303.

¹The *King v. Edward Tuft*, Leach Cro. Law, 172.—The *King v. Taylor*, id. 257, & note a.—*Tatlock v. Harris*, 3 T. R. 174.—*Vere v. Lewis*, id. 182.—*Minet v. Gibson*, id. 481.—*Collis v. Emmett*,

validity of a bill of exchange that there should be three parties to it, a bill may be drawn payable to the drawer himself¹, though in such case it is said to be more in the nature of a promissory note. A bill may also be payable to one for the use of another²; when drawn payable to a married woman it is payable to the husband, and transferable only in his name³. . . .

9thly, To whom payable.

(10)—As the commercial advantage to be derived from the *negotiable quality* of bills of exchange, was the only reason why our courts allowed in their favour an exception to the rule relative to the assignment of *choses* in action, it was once thought; that unless they possessed that quality, they would have no greater effect than that of being mere evidence of a contract⁴. It is however now well established, that it is not essential to the validity of a bill, as an instrument, that it be transferrable from one person to another⁵. If, how-

10thly, Payable to order.

1 Hen. Bla. 313.—Gibson v. Minet, id. ibid. 569.—2 East's Pleas Crown, 957.

Rex v. Edward Tuft, Leach Cro. Law, 172.—The prisoner was indicted for forging an indorsement on a bill of exchange, and found guilty, but the judge before whom he was tried, submitted the case to the consideration of the judges upon the following statement:—The bill was drawn payable to Messrs. R. & M. and indorsed by them generally, and became the property of one W. W. from whom it had been stolen; the prisoner, for the purpose of getting it discounted, indorsed on it the name of John Williams.

The judges were unanimously of opinion that this was a forgery, for, although the fictitious signature was not necessary to his obtaining the money, yet it was a fraud both on the owner of the bill and the person who discounted it, and referred to Rex v. Locket, where it was holden, that the forging a name, either real or fictitious, with an intent to defraud, was forgery; but see the King v. Inhabitants of Burton-upon-Trent, 3 M. & S. 538. where Lord Ellenborough said, if a party sign an instrument in a name assumed by him for other purposes, a considerable time before, such signature will not amount to a forgery, but otherwise, if he assume a name by which he had never been known before, for the purposes of fraud.

¹ Butler v. Crips, 1 Salk. 130.—And ——— v. Ormston, 10 Mod. 286.—Bayl. 22.—Ante, 26, 7.

² Evans v. Cramlington, Carth. 5.—2 Ventr. 307.—Skin. 264. S. C. Smith v. Kendal, 6 T. R. 123.—Marchington v. Vernon, 1 Bos. & Pul. 101. note c.

³ Ante, 25, 6.

⁴ Dawkes v. Lord de Lorane, 3 Wils. 211.

⁵ Smith v. Kendall, 6 T. R. 123, 4.—The King v. Box, 6 Taunt. 328.—Smallwood v. Rolfe, Sel. Ca. 18.—Bayl. 16.—Smith v. Kendall, Executor, &c. 6 T. R. 123.—1 Esp. Rep. 231. S. C. Assumpsit for money paid, &c. On the trial the following note was given in evidence: "Three months after date, I promise to pay to Mr. Smith,

10thly, Payable
to order.

ever, it be intended to be negotiable, care must be taken that the operative words of transfer, commonly used in bills, be inserted therein¹. If, however, they be omitted by mistake, it seems that if the bill was originally intended to be negotiable, the words "*or order*," may be inserted at any time without a fresh stamp². The modes of making a bill transferable, are by drawing it either payable to *A. B.* or *order*, or to *A. B.* or *bearer*, or to the drawer's own order, or to *bearer* generally. The use, operation, and effect of each of these forms of words, will be pointed out hereafter, in that part of the work which treats of the *transfer* of bills and checks.

11thly, Sum payable.

(11)—The *sum* for which the bill is drawn, should be clearly expressed in the body of it, and, as it has been before observed, it may be advisable to write it in figures at the head, and in words at length in the body of the bill, in order the better to prevent alteration³. But even in an indictment for forgery, an omission in the body of the bill has been aided by the superscription⁴. Care should be taken that the stamp be appropriated to the sum. If the sum in the superscription of the bill be different from that in the body of it, the sum mentioned in the body will be taken, *prima facie*, to be the sum payable⁵. When there has been a contract by a third person, to guarantee a bill for a

currier, £40, value received, in trust for Mrs. E. Thompson, as witness my hand, L. Asken, 25th June, 1787." The defendant objected that this was not a promissory note within the statute, not being payable either to order or bearer. A verdict was taken for the defendant, with leave for plaintiff to move to set it aside and enter a verdict for him. Upon motion being made and cause shewn, the court held that a note payable to B. without adding "or to his order or to bearer," was a legal note within the act of parliament.—*S. P. Burchell v. Slocock*, Lord Raym. 1545.—*Moore v. Paine*, Rep. Temp. Hardw. 288. and see the Entries, *Ewers v. Benchin*, 1 Lutw. 231, 2. *Manning v. Cary*, id. 277.—Clift. 916.

¹ Beawes, pl. 3.—Selw. N. P. 303, n. 16.—*Hill v. Lewis*, Salk. 133.

² *Kershaw v. Cox*, 3 Esp. Rep. 246.—*Knill v. Williams*, 10 East. 435. 437.—*Cole v. Parkin*, 12 East. 471.—Post, alteration.

³ Poth. pl. 35. 99.—*Master v. Miller*, 4 T. R. 320.—Ante, 78.

⁴ *Elliot's Case*, 2 East. P. C. 951.—Ante, 78, n. 2.

⁵ Beawes, pl. 193.—Mar. 2d ed. 138, 9.—*Elliot's Case*, 2 East. P. C. 951.—Ante, 78, n. 2.

given sum, the bill should be drawn accordingly, for 11thly, Sum payable. if it be drawn for a larger sum, the guarantee will not be liable even to the amount of the sum he engaged to secure¹. With respect to foreign bills, there is no restriction as to the amount of the sum for which they may be made payable; but it is otherwise in regard to inland bills, and drafts, which are forbidden to be drawn for any sum under twenty shillings, by the statute 15 Geo. 3. c. 51. under the penalty of £20.

(12)—It appears, that in France it was not only essential to the validity of a bill, that it should express whether or not value had been received, but likewise the nature of the consideration which constituted the value²; but in this country it is otherwise, for *value received* is implied in every bill and indorsement, as much as if expressed in *totidem verbis*³; and though there are some old cases⁴ on the question, whether *indebitatus assumpsit* would lie on a bill of exchange, in which it appears there was a distinction made between a bill importing to have been given for value received, and one not containing those words, and it was holden that in the first case the drawer was chargeable at common law, but in the latter on the custom only⁵; yet it is now settled, that there is no such distinction, and that a bill need not contain the above words⁶. However, to entitle the holder of an inland bill or note, for the payment of £20. or upwards, to recover interest and damages against the

12thly, Of the words *value received*.

¹ Philips v. Astling, 2 Taunt. 206.

² Poth. pl. 8. 34.

³ Per Lord Ellenborough, in Grant v. Da Costa, 3 M. & S. 352.—White v. Ledwick, B. R. H. 25 Geo. 3. Bayl. 16. note b. A declaration on a bill of exchange was demurred to, because it was not stated to have been given for value received, but the court said it was a settled point that it was not necessary, and gave judgment for the plaintiff.—Claxton v. Swift, 2 Show. 496, 7.—Mackleod v. Snee, Lord Raym. 1481.—Josceline v. Lassere, Fortes. 282.—Jenney v. Hearle, 8 Mod. 267.—Eveskyn v. Merry, 1 Barnard. 88.—Death v. Serwonters, Lutw. 889. accord.—Dawkes v. Lord de Lorane, 3 Wils. 212.—Banbury v. Lisset, 2 Stra. 1212. *semb. contra*.—2 Bla. Com. 468.

⁴ Hodges v. Steward, Skin. 346.—Anonymous, 12 Mod. 345.

⁵ Beawes, pl. 233.—Cramlington v. Evans, 1 Show. 5.—Vin. Ab. tit. Bills of Exchange, G. 2.

⁶ Same cases as *supra*, note 3.

12thly, Of the words *value received*.

drawer and indorser, in default of acceptance, or payment, it should contain the words, *value received*¹. And if a bill or note contain those words, an action of debt may be sustained by the payee, against the maker of each². These are distinctions, which render it advisable in all cases, to insert these words. It is said to have been decided, that to aid a variance, the words may be inserted at the time of the trial³. It has been considered, that when a bill of exchange is in this form, "Pay to F. G. B. or order £315, value received," and was subscribed by the drawer; it may be alleged in pleading to be a bill of exchange for value received by the drawer from the payee⁴.

Of the consideration necessary.

It may be proper under this head to take a concise view of the *consideration on which a bill of exchange may be originally founded, or which may pass between the indorser and indorsee, &c. on the transfer of it*; and in making this inquiry, it will be advisable to consider, when the validity of the bill will be affected by any need.

1st. The want of consideration.

2dly. The illegality of it.

Want of consideration, when material.

It has already been observed⁵, that in general, a contract not under seal, will be invalid, unless it be founded on a valuable consideration⁶; and that it is

¹ 9 & 10 Wm. 3. c. 17.—3 & 4 Ann, c. 9. s. 4. See Appendix.

² Bishop v. Young, 2 Bos. & Pul. 76. 81.

³ Bul. Ni. Pri. 275. sed qu.

⁴ Grant v. Da Costa, 3 M. & S. 351. Per Lord Ellenborough. It appears to me that value received is capable of two interpretations, but the more natural one is, that the party who draws the bill should inform the drawee of a fact which he does not know, than one of which he must be well aware. The words "value received," are not at all material, they might be wholly omitted in the declaration, and there are several cases to that effect. The meaning of them here is, that the drawer informs the drawee that he draws upon him in favor of the payee, because he has received value of such payee. To tell him that he draws upon him because he the drawee has value in his hands, is to tell him nothing, therefore the first is the more probable interpretation. And per Bayley, J. the object of inserting the words value received, is to shew that it is not an accommodation bill, but made on a valuable consideration given for it by the payee.

⁵ Ante, 12, 13.

⁶ As to the distinction between *good* and *valuable* considerations, see 2 Bla. Com. 444—297.

incumbent on the plaintiff, to state such consideration in his declaration, and to prove it on the trial, before he can call on the defendant for his defence. But in the case of bills of exchange, or promissory notes, it is not necessary for the plaintiff to state any consideration in his declaration, or to prove it in the first instance on the trial¹; unless where he brings an action as bearer of a bill transferable by delivery, and then only under suspicious circumstances, as where it has been made under duress, or lost, and the holder cannot give a reasonable account how he came by it, and has had due notice before the trial of the action, to prove the consideration which he gave for the instrument². And whenever the holder has given full value for the bill, before it was due, the defendant will not be at liberty to shew that he had received none, although the plaintiff knew that circumstance at the time he became the

Want of consideration, when material.

¹ *Crawley v. Crowther*, 2 Freem. 257. Per Lord Chancellor. It is now held, and the practice is so, that if a man gives a note for money, payable on demand, he need not prove any consideration, and see *Trials per Pais*, 501.—*Meredith v. Skort*, 1 Salk. 25.—2 *Ld. Raym.* 760. S. C.—2 *Bla. Com.* 446.—*Selw. N. P.* 4th ed. 304.

² *Duncan v. Scott*, 1 *Campb. Rep.* 100. Indorsee against the drawer of a bill. It appeared that the defendant gave the bill while under duress abroad, and under a threat of personal violence and confiscation of his property, and that it was given without consideration. Lord Ellenborough held, that the defendant, not having been a free agent, when he drew the bill, it was incumbent on the plaintiff to give some evidence of consideration, and no such evidence being given, the plaintiff was nonsuited.

Grant v. Vaughan, 3 *Burr.* 1516. 1527. This was an action on a note payable to bearer, which had been lost, and came to plaintiff's hands for a valuable consideration. Lord Mansfield said it is but just and reasonable that if the bearer brings the action, he ought to entitle himself to it on a valuable consideration, and strictly to prove his coming by it *bonâ fide*, and see *Hinton's case*, 2 *Show.* 235.

King v. Milson, 2 *Campb. Rep.* 5. Per Lord Ellenborough. It would greatly impair the credit and impede the circulation of negotiable instruments, if persons holding them could, without strong evidence of fraud, be compelled, by any prior holder, to disclose the manner in which they received them.—See also *Sir John Lawson v. Weston*, 4 *Esp. N. P. C.* 56.—*Rees v. Marquis of Headfort*, 2 *Campb. Rep.* 274. S. P.

Pattison v. Hardacre, 4 *Taunt.* 114, in which it was decided, that where a bill had been lost, or fraudulently or feloniously obtained from the defendant, the holder, who sued, must prove that he came to the bill upon good consideration, but that the defendant would not be permitted to object to the want of such proof, unless he had given the plaintiff reasonable previous notice, that the plaintiff might come to trial prepared to prove his consideration.

Want of consideration, when material.

holder, unless he also knew that the party, from whom he received it, was acting fraudulently¹.

And though when a bill of exchange has been given for a particular purpose, and that be known to the party taking it, then he cannot apply it to a different purpose; where a bill is given under no such restriction, but merely for the accommodation of the drawer or payee, and sent into the world, it is no answer to an action brought on such bill, that the defendant accepted it for the accommodation of the drawer, and that that fact was known to the holder; and in such case the latter, if he gave a bona fide consideration for it, is entitled to recover the amount, though he had full knowledge of the transaction².

¹ Collins v. Martin, 1 Bos. & Pul. 651. Per Eyre, C. J. No evidence of want of consideration, or other ground, to impeach the apparent value received, was ever admitted in a case between an acceptor or drawer, and a third person holding the bill for value, and the rule is so strict that it will be presumed that he does hold for value until the contrary appear; the onus probandi lies on the defendant. If it can be proved that the holder gave no value for the bill, then indeed he is in privity with the first holder, and will be affected by every thing which would affect such first holder. This all proceeds upon the *argumentum ad hominem*, it is saying you have the title, but you shall not be heard in a court of justice, to enforce it against good faith and conscience. For the purpose of rendering bills of exchange negotiable, the right of property in them passes with the bills. Every holder, with the bills, takes the property, and his title is stamped upon the bills themselves. The property and the possession are inseparable. This was necessary to make them negotiable, and in this respect they differ essentially from goods, in which the property and possession may be in different persons.

Morris v. Lee, K. B. Hil. 26 Geo. 3. In an action by the indorsee against the maker of a note thirteen years old, the defendant obtained a rule nisi, to set aside a judgment by default, on an affidavit by a third person, that he believed the defendant was swindled out of the note; an affidavit was made on the other side, that the plaintiff took the note bona fide, and gave a valuable consideration for it, and the court held, that however improperly it might have been obtained, a third person who took it fairly, and gave a consideration for it, was entitled to recover, and discharged the rule; see this case cited in Anonymous, 1 Com. Rep. 43. and Bayl. 233.

Haly v. Lane, 2 Atk. 182. "Where there is a negotiable note, and it comes into the hands of a third or fourth indorsee, though some of the former indorsees might not pay a valuable consideration, yet if the last indorsee gave money for it, it is a good note as to him, unless there should be some fraud or equity against him appearing in the case.

See also per Buller, J. in Lickbarrow and Mason, 2 T. R. 71.—Poth. pl. 118. 121.—Selw. N. P. 4th edit. 364.

² Per Lord Eldon, in Smith v. Knox, 8 Esp. Rep. 47.—and see Charles v. Marsden, 1 Taunt. 224. and Popplewell v. Wilson, 1 Stra. 264.

Between the drawer and the acceptor, the drawer and the payee and his agent, and the indorsee and his immediate indorser, fraud, or the total want of consideration, may be questioned¹. And though we have seen that a parol agreement to renew a bill, affords no defence to an action²; yet if a bill or check be given on a verbal condition, which the drawer finds is to be broken or eluded, he has a right to stop the payment and may defend an action thereon³.

Want of consideration, when material.

In those cases also in which a defendant would be at liberty to insist upon a total want of consideration, he may shew that the consideration does not extend to all the money payable by the bill or note, and the plaintiff shall only recover for the residue⁴.

¹ *Jefferies v. Austen*, Stra. 647. In an action by the payee of a note against the maker, Eyre, C. J. allowed the defendant to prove that it was given as a reward, in case the plaintiff procured the defendant to be restored to an office, and the defendant was not restored, and on this proof the defendant had a verdict.

Solomon v. Turner, Bart. 1 Stark. 51. If a promissory note be given as the stipulated price of a picture, the maker cannot give the inadequacy of the consideration in evidence, with a view to diminish the damages, but may prove such circumstance as indicative of fraud, in order to defeat the contract altogether; and see *Ledger v. Ewer*, Peake. 216.—*Fleming v. Simpson*, 1 Campb. 40.

Richmond v. Heapy, 1 Stark. 202. If one of three partners undertake to provide for a bill of exchange drawn by the firm, upon and accepted by the defendant, the latter may, in an action at the suit of the three partners, give in evidence such undertaking as a defence to the action.

Jackson v. Warwick, 7 T. R. 121. The defendant's son was apprenticed by indenture to the plaintiff, and the defendant gave the plaintiff a note for £10 as an apprentice fee; but this premium was not mentioned in the indentures, nor were they stamped pursuant to 8 Ann. c. 9. The son remained part of his time and then absconded. In an action on the note, and the failure of consideration (the apprenticeship) being relied on as a defence, it was contended that the avoiding the indentures could not collaterally affect the note, and that at all events the consideration had not wholly failed, inasmuch as the plaintiff had maintained the apprentice during his stay. Lawrence, J. however, thought that the consideration was entire, and had wholly failed; he allowed a verdict to be taken for the plaintiff, with liberty to the defendant to move to enter a nonsuit. The court concurred in opinion with Lawrence, J. and directed a nonsuit to be entered; see *Grant v. Welchman*, 16 East. 207.

² Ante, 61.

³ *Wienholt v. Spitter*, 3 Campb. 376.

⁴ Bayl. 234, 5.—*Barber v. Backhouse*, Peake. 61. In an action on a bill of exchange by the payee, the defendant paid part of the money into court, and it appeared upon the trial that there was no consideration for the other part; Law, however, urged that the payment of the money into court admitted the bill was good for part, and

Want of consideration, when material,

But the money as to which the consideration fails, must be of a *specific liquidated* amount; for, where a partial failure of consideration arises from unliquidated damages, sustained by the breach of a subsisting contract, the performance of which was the consideration of the bill or note, such breach of contract cannot be investigated in an action on the bill or note; but the plaintiff will be entitled to a verdict for the whole amount of the bill, leaving the defendant to his cross action¹.

Where, however, such contract has been rescinded in toto when entire, or in part when it may be divided,

if it was good for part it was good in toto; but Lord Kenyon declared himself clearly of a contrary opinion, upon which the jury found for the defendant, and this case being afterwards mentioned by Lord Kenyon in the course of argument, Law said he was perfectly satisfied with the decision.

Ledger v. Ewer, Peake. 216. In an action by the payee of a bill against the acceptor, the consideration appeared to be, that the plaintiff, had taken the defendant into partnership; but on the defendant's friend's advice he broke off the connection; there was evidence of fraud on the plaintiff's part in drawing the defendant into the engagement, which Lord Kenyon left to the jury; but he told them, if they were against the defendant on the evidence of fraud, they should take into consideration the damages the plaintiff had really sustained by the non-performance of the contract, and were not obliged to find the whole amount of the bill. The jury, however, found for the defendant.

Wiffen v. Roberts, 1 Esp. Rep. 261. This was an action by the indorsee against the drawer of a bill of exchange accepted by one Yates. The defence set up was, that the bill was an accommodation one, and that the defendant had not paid full value for it. Lord Kenyon said, that where a bill of exchange is given for money really due from the drawee to the drawer, or is drawn in the regular course of business, in such case the indorsee, though he has not given the indorser the full amount of the bill, yet may recover the whole, and be holder of the overplus above the sum really paid to the use of the indorser; but where the bill is an accommodation one, and that known to the indorsee, and he pays but part of the amount, in such case he can only recover the sum he has actually paid on the bill. The plaintiff was nonsuited on another ground.

¹ Bayl. 236, 7.—*Moggeridge v. Jones*, 14 East. 486.—3 Campb. 38. S. C. Drawer against the acceptor of a bill. The plaintiff agreed to let a house to the defendant for 21 years, and in consideration of £500, to be paid by three bills to be drawn by the plaintiff, and accepted by the defendant, agreed to execute a lease for that term. The bill in question, and two others were drawn and accepted accordingly, and the defendant was immediately let into possession; but the plaintiff refused to execute the lease. It was urged therefore that the consideration had failed. But Lord Ellenborough, and afterwards the court, on a motion for a new trial, held that this was no defence to the action; that the defendant was bound to pay the bills, and

it will be competent to the defendant, in an action on the bill or note, brought by the one contracting party against the other, to prove that the contract has been thus wholly or partly rescinded, and thus prove a total or partial failure of consideration ¹. *Want of consideration, when material*

It does not appear to have been decided, whether a promissory note or check, given by the maker to the payee as a *gift*, and without consideration, can be enforced between these parties ². In the case of Tate

might have his remedy on the agreement for non-execution of the lease. Vide *Broom v. Davis*, cited 7 East's Rep. 480., And *Basten v. Butter*, 7 East's Rep. 479. And the cases therein cited.

Morgan v. Richardson, 1 Campb. 100. To an action by the drawer against the acceptor of a bill drawn payable to the drawer's order, the defence was, that the bill had been accepted for the price of some hams, and that they had proved so bad as to be almost unmarketable. The sum for which they were actually sold was paid into court. Lord Ellenborough held that this partial failure of consideration was no defence to this action; but that the defendant must take his remedy by action. See also 7 East. 482. note a.—3 Smith's Rep. 487. notes. *S.P. Fleming v. Simpson*, 1 Campb. 40.—From *Tye v. Gwynne*, 2 Campb. 346, it appears, that this case was afterwards brought before the King's Bench, and the court approved of the direction of the chief justice.

Tye v. Gwynne, 2 Campb. 346. This was an action on a bill of exchange by the drawer against the acceptor, and the same point arose as in the last case, with the exception that no money was paid into court, Lord Ellenborough said he should adhere to the judgment of the court in *Morgan v. Richardson*, vide last case.

¹ Bayl. 236.—*Lewis v. Cosgrave*, 2 Taunt. 2. This was an action on a banker's check drawn by the defendant, and given to the plaintiff for the price of a horse, sold by the plaintiff to the defendant, and warranted sound: the horse was in fact unsound, and that was relied on as a defence. The defendant proved that he had sent back the horse, but the plaintiff refused to take it: he however sent it again, and left it in the plaintiff's stable without his knowledge. Heath, J. told the jury, that as the plaintiff had refused to receive back the horse, the contract for the sale was not rescinded, and that the defendant was therefore bound to pay the check, and had his remedy, by action, for the deceit. They found a verdict for the plaintiff; but on a rule nisi for a new trial, and cause shewn, the court, on the ground of there being clear evidence of fraud, made the rule absolute. See *Weston v. Downes*, Dougl. 23.—*Power v. Wells*, Cowp. 818.—*Towers v. Barrett*, 1 T. R. 133.

² The general opinion appears to be, that such a bill or note cannot be enforced. In *Nash v. Brown*, Sittings at Westminster, Trin. 1817, a bill of exchange was accepted by the defendant as a present to the payee, who indorsed it to the plaintiff for a small sum advanced to him. And Lord Ellenborough held, that the plaintiff was only entitled to recover so much as he had actually advanced on the bill. Formerly, such a bill or note seems to have been considered to be available. *Williamson and Ux v. Losh*, Executor, MS. Ashurst, J. Paper Books, 19th vol. 54. Mich. Term,

Want of consideration, when material.

*v. Hilbert*¹, it was held, that an absolute gift to take effect immediately, cannot be considered as donatio mortis causa; therefore such gift of a common check on a banker payable to bearer, and of the parties' own promissory note, was not donatio mortis causa, or an appointment or disposition in nature of it; and was not capable of any greater effect in equity than at law; it was therefore ordered that the bill as to the check should be dismissed without prejudice to any action; and as to the note, it being doubted whether an action would lie against the executor for want of consideration, the court offered to retain the bill, if an account was necessary. In the same case it was also decided, that where a banker's check is given, and is paid away for valuable consideration, or to a creditor, the executor is liable; and if the person to whom it is

16 Geo. 3. cited 7 T. R. 351. This was an action of assumpsit against the defendant, as executor of John Losh, deceased, upon the following promissory note: "I, John Losh, for the love and affection that I have for Jane Tiffin, my wife's sister's daughter, do promise that my executors, administrators, or assigns, shall pay to her the sum of £100 of money, one year after my decease, and a caldron, and a clock, a wainscoat chest, and a bed and bed-clothes, seven pudder dishes: as witness my hand, this 16th day of February, 1763. Witnessed by us, A. B. C. D." Jane Tiffin afterwards intermarried with the plaintiff. Upon the trial, a verdict was found for the plaintiff, and a case reserved. The defendant admitted he had proved the will, and had assets sufficient to cover the damages, but contended that there was no consideration in point of law, and that the note could not be recovered upon, and that, as the testator was not bound, the executor was not. The court held, that the instrument being in writing, and attested by witnesses, the objection of nudum pactum did not lie, and ordered the *postea* to the plaintiff. This case was afterwards observed upon by Lord Chief Baron Skynner, in delivering the opinion of the judges, in *Rann v. Hughes*, 7 T. R. 351, when he intimated, that, so far as this case went on the doctrine of nudum pactum, it was erroneous.

Seton v. Seton, 2 Bro. Ch. Ca. 610. The mother of the plaintiff made a promissory note for £9,500, and delivered it to a trustee, as a provision for a child, of which she was then pregnant; she afterwards filed her bill to have the note delivered up; the child, who was then born, together with the trustee, filed their cross bill, to have the agreement entered into by the note carried into execution. Upon general demurrer to the bill for want of equity, the court held that it was not sufficiently nudum pactum, to allow the demurrer.

A moral, or even an honourable obligation would be sufficient to give effect to a note. *Lee and Muggeridge*, 5 Taunt. 86.—*Gibb v. Merrill*, 3 Taunt. 311.

¹ *Tate v. Hilbert*, 2 Ves. jun. 111.

given receives it, before the banker has notice of the death of the drawer, it cannot be recalled. If a bill, &c. have been fraudulently obtained, a court of equity will relieve, and detain the bill¹.

Want of consideration, when material.

Whenever the defendant is at liberty to insist on the want of consideration as a defence, he may also insist that the consideration, or a part thereof, was *illegal*². A contract is always legal, if it be not repugnant to the revealed *Law of God*, to the *general policy of the Common Law*, or to some *Legislative Provision*. The principles on which illegality in a contract vitiates it, are pointed out in *Lightfoot v. Tenant*³. *Illegal considerations* have been considered as distinguishable into three heads.—1st. The doing an act *malum in se*, or *malum prohibitum*.—2dly, The omission of the performance of some legal duty.—And 3dly, A stipulation encouraging such crime or omission⁴. But the distinction between *malum in se*, and *malum prohibitum*, has recently been denied⁵. Illegal considerations may be either those void at common law, or those void by statute.

Illegality of consideration, when it vitiates.

First, Considerations *illegal at common law* are those which are prejudicial to the *community at large*, or those which affect the person or interests of an *individual*. Those of the former description, are, 1st, any contract made with an alien enemy; and if a bill be drawn upon any such transaction⁶, it will not be available after a restoration of peace. 2dly, Stipulations in *general restraint of trade*, as if a party

At common law.

¹ *The Bishop of Winchester v. Fournier*, 2 Ves. sen. 445. et post.

² *Guichard v. Roberts*, 1 Bla. Rep. 445.—*Scott v. Gillmore*, 3 Taunt. 226.—Bayl. 237.

³ 1 Bos. & Pul. 554, 5.—1 Fonbl. 345. and see a learned note in Holt C. N. P. 107.

⁴ 1 Bla. Com. 57, 8.—Co. Lit. 206, b. n. 1.—*Mitchel v. Reynolds*, 1 P. W. 189.—*Lloyd v. Johnson*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 340, 1.—*Lightfoot v. Tenant*, id: 556.

⁵ *Aubert v. Maze*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 375.—*Sedgwick on Bla. Com.* 54. Sed vide *Witham v. Lee*, 4 Esp. Rep. 264.

⁶ *Willison v. Pattison and others*, 7 Taunt. 439.—Ante, 18; but see the exception, as to British prisoners in a foreign country, in *Antoine v. Morshead*, 1 Marsh. 558.—6 Taunt. 237. S. C.—Ante, 18; and as to the effect of a subsequent promise to pay, *Duhammel v. Pickering*, 2 Stark. 90.

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engage not to carry on a trade in any part of England; but if the restraint be qualified, so as only to preclude the party from trading in a particular place, or within a certain distance, as, for instance, ten miles, and the breach of the stipulation tend apparently to the detriment of the party in whose favour it was made, and a consideration was given by such party, the contract will not be impeached either at Law or in Equity¹.

3dly, A stipulation repugnant to the *Custom* and *Excise* laws of this country, as *smuggling*, &c.²

4thly, Dropping a *criminal prosecution*, or suppressing evidence, or soliciting a pardon, or compounding a felony, misdemeanor, or other public crime; unless it be with leave of the court³. 5thly, The recommendation to, or purchase of, an office under government⁴.

6thly, Every *illegal wager*, repugnant to the principles of general policy, as a wager between voters on the event of an election⁵, upon the event of a war⁶, or concerning the produce of any particular branch of the revenue, &c. as of the hop duties⁷; and cricket, a horse-race, or a foot-race, against time, is a game, within the statute 9 Ann. c. 14. s. 1⁸. 7thly, In *general restraint of marriage*⁹. 8thly, *Procuracion*

¹ Hunlock v. Blacklowe, 2 Saund. 156. n. 1.—Mitchel v. Reynolds, 1 P. W. 190.—10 Mod. 130. S. C.—Co. Lit. 206. b. n. 1.—Davis v. Mason, 5 T. R. 118.—1 Powell on Contracts, 167.

² Biggs v. Lawrence, 3 T. R. 454.—Vandyck v. Hewitt, 1 East. 97. Lightfoot v. Tenant, 1 Bos. & Pul. 551.—Guichard v. Roberts, 1 Bla. Rep. 445.—Johnston v. Sutton, 1 Dougl. 254.—1 Marsh. on Ins. c. 5. Holt C. N. P. 107. n. see Hodgson v. Temple, 5 Taunt. 181.

³ Wallace v. Hardacre, 1 Campb. N.P. 45.—Poole v. Bousfield, id. 55. Nerot v. Wallace, 3 T. R. 17.—Dragge v. Ibberson, 2 Esp. Rep. 643. Fallows v. Taylor, 7 T. R. 475.—Edgcombe v. Rodd, 5 East. 294.—Johnson v. Ogilby, 3 P. W. 279.—Collins v. Blantein, 2 Wils. 349.—Norman v. Cole, 3 Esp. Rep. 253.—1 Leon. 180.—Beall v. Wingfield, 11 East. 46.—Brett v. Close, 16 East. 293.

⁴ Harrington v. Du Chatel, Bro. C. C. 114.—Bayl. on Bills, 122.

⁵ Allen v. Hearn, 1 T. R. 56.—Beeley v. Wingfield, 11 East. 46.—Pilkington v. Green, 2 Bos. & Pul. 151.

⁶ Lacausade v. White, 7 T. R. 535.—Allen v. Hearn, 1 T. R. 57.

⁷ Atherfold v. Beard, 2 T. R. 610.—Shirley v. Sankey, 2 Bos. & Pul. 130.

⁸ Jeffreys v. Walter, 1 Wils. 220.—Lynall v. Longbothom, 2 Wils. 36.

⁹ Hartley v. Rice, 10 East. 22, qualified.—Gibson v. Dickie, 3 M. & S. 463.—Lowe v. Peers, Burr. 2225.

of marriage¹. 9thly, *Future illicit cohabitation*, but *Illegality of consideration, when it vitiates.* past cohabitation is a legal consideration². So a promissory note given to *indemnify a parish against a bastard child*, is illegal, as being contrary to the general policy of the law, as well as the letter of the 6 Geo. 2. c. 31³. But the release, by an Excise officer, of a person apprehended for penalties under the Excise Laws, will be a sufficient consideration for a note, the commissioners having approved of his taking it⁴, and this, although he had no previous authority⁵. So any stipulation *prejudicial to the feelings or interests of a third person*, and made without his concurrence, as a wager as to the sex of a third person⁶, or contrary to the benevolent intent of others⁷, as a secret stipulation, before a composition deed is signed, that one of the creditors shall have a larger dividend, or a better security, than the rest is void⁸. But after a com-

¹ Co. Lit. 206. b. and see note 4, ante, 96.

² Ex parte Mumford, 15 Ves. 289.—Gibson v. Dickie, 3 M. & S. 463.—Walker v. Perkins, Burr. 1568.—Marchioness of Annandale v. Harris, 2 P. W. 432.—Turner v. Vaughan, 2 Wils. 339.—Hill v. Spencer, Amb. 641.—Ex parte Cottrell, 2 Cowp. 742.—Wightwick v. Banks, Forrest. 153.

³ Cole v. Gower, 6 East. 110.

⁴ Pilkington v. Green, 2 Bos. & Pul. 151.—Beeley v. Wingfield, 11 East. 46.

⁵ Sugars v. Brinkworth, 4 Campb. 46. This was an action against the maker of a promissory note. The note was given by the defendant for the amount of penalties, of which he had been convicted before magistrates, under the Excise laws, to prevent an execution issuing against his goods. On the part of the defendant, it was contended, that there was no legal consideration for the note, as it was the plaintiff's duty to have levied the amount of the penalties, and not to have taken any security. Lord Ellenborough. The defendant gave the promissory note at two months, in redemption of his goods, which were liable to be instantly sold for what they could fetch. This surely was sufficient consideration. I do not think any previous consent by the commissioners of Excise, or the magistrates, was necessary for the arrangement. Verdict for plaintiff. Vide Pilkington v. Green, 2 Bos. & Pul. 151. S. P.

⁶ Da Costa v. Jones, Cowp. 729.—Harvey v. Gibbons, 2 Lev. 161. Eastbrook v. Scott, 3 Ves. 456.—Ditchburn v. Goldsmith, 4 Campb. 152.—Gilbert v. Sykes, 16 East. 150.

⁷ Jackson v. Duchaire, 3 T. R. 551.

⁸ Cockshott v. Bennet, 2 T. R. 763.—Leicester v. Rose, 4 East. 372. Spurrett v. Spiller, 1 Atk. 105.—Jackson v. Lomas, 4 T. R. 166.—Cooling v. Noyes, 6 T. R. 263.—Bryant v. Christie, 1 Stark. 329.—Bayl. 230.

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position deed has actually been signed by all the creditors, a bill or note, affording a better security to one of them, has been deemed valid¹. At common law, a wager is legal, if it be not an incitement to a breach of the peace, or to immorality, or if it do not affect the feelings or interest of a third person, or expose him to ridicule, or libel him, or if it be not against sound policy, or merely to try a point of law².

By statute; as usury and cases thereon.

Secondly, Some considerations, as well as contracts, are declared to be *invalid by statute*, as *usury*, by the 12 Ann. stat. 2. c. 16³, which has two distinct provisions; first, avoiding all bonds, contracts, and assurances, for the payment of any money to be lent, &c. whereupon or whereby there shall be reserved or taken above £5 per cent.; and secondly, subjecting the party taking above £5 per cent. to an action for treble the sum lent, or forborne, &c. Thus it is enacted, “ That no person or persons whatsoever, upon any contract, take, directly or indirectly, for loan, of any monies, wares, merchandize, or other commodities whatsoever, above the value of £5, for the forbearance of £100, for a year, and so after that rate for a greater or lesser sum, or for a longer or shorter time; and that all bonds, contracts, and assurances whatsoever, made for payment of any principal, or money to be lent, or covenanted to be performed upon or for any usury, whereupon or whereby there shall be reserved or taken above the rate of £5 in the hundred as aforesaid, shall be utterly void; and that all and every person or persons whatsoever, which shall, upon any contract, take, accept, and receive, by way or means of any corrupt bargain, loan, exchange, chevizance, shift, or interest, of any wares, merchandizes, or other thing or things whatsoever, or by any deceitful way or means, or by any covin, engine, or deceitful conveyance, for the

¹ Feise v. Randall, 6 T. R. 146.—Bayl. 230, 1.

² Good v. Elliot, 3 T. R. 693.—Henkin v. Guerss, 12 East. 247.—Gilbert v. Sykes, 16 East. 150.

³ See the observations on this statute, Holt C. N. P. 259.

forbearing or giving day of payment, for one whole year, of and for their money, or other thing above the sum of £5, for the forbearing of £100 for a year, and so after that rate for a greater or lesser sum, or for a longer or shorter term, shall forfeit and lose, for every such offence, the treble value of the monies, wares, merchandizes, and other things, so lent, bargained, exchanged, or shifted." Upon this statute it has been determined, that the security is void, though, on the face of it, it may appear legal, if there be any other illegal private stipulation between the original parties, for matter, *dehors* the security, may, in all cases, be shewn in pleading, if it be illegal¹; and usury, in a small part of the consideration, renders a bill invalid². Usury also affects the contract, even in the case of a bill of exchange in the hands of a *bonâ fide* holder³; and a bill drawn in consequence of an usurious agreement for discounting it, is void in the hands of a *bonâ fide* holder, although the drawer was not privy to such agreement⁴. But a second security given to the *bonâ fide* holder of a bill⁵, or for what

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¹ *Petrie v. Hannay*, 3 T. R. 424.—*Fisher v. Beasley*, Dougl. 235.

² *Harrison v. Harrison*, 1 Marsh. 349.—5 Taunt. 780. S. C.

³ *Lowe v. Waller*, Dougl. 735.—*Cuthbert v. Haley*, 8 T. R. 390.—*Ferrall v. Shaen*, 1 Saund. 295.—*Parr v. Eliason*, 1 East. 92.—*Bayl.* 237, 8.—*Lowe v. Waller*, Dougl. 708. 736. The defendant was acceptor of a bill which he gave to Harris and Stratton upon an usurious contract; Harris and Stratton indorsed it to the plaintiff for a valuable consideration, and the plaintiff had no notice of the usury. Upon a case reserved, the question was, whether the usury between Harris and Stratton, and the defendant, was a defence against an indorsee, who took the bill *bonâ fide*, and paid a valuable consideration for it; and after time taken to consider, the court held it was, and though Lord Mansfield had a wish that the law should turn out in favour of the plaintiff, the court found the words of the act too strong, and could not get over the case of *Bowyer v. Bampton*, Stra. 1155. which see, post, 101. But see the observations of Gibbs, C. J. in *Jones v. Davison*, Holt C. N. P. 256. where a doubt is suggested as to the propriety of this doctrine. However it was confirmed in the case of *Lowes v. Mazzaredo*, 1 Stark. 385. See post, 104. n. 8.

⁴ *Ackland v. Pearce*, 2 Campb. 599.—*Young v. Wright*, 1 Campb. 139.

⁵ *Cuthbert v. Haley*, 8 T. R. 390.—*George v. Stanley*, 4 Taunt. 683. which see, post, 101. n. 2.

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is fairly due¹, is in general valid; and after suffering judgment by default, or confessing a judgment in favour of a *bonâ fide* holder, it is too late to object to the legality of the consideration². It is not usury, though improper, for an acceptor to discount his own acceptance at a premium³. Where a check is given on an usurious transaction, it cannot be deemed an advance of money, unless specially agreed to be taken as cash, until it has been actually paid⁴.

Gaming, &c.

A *gaming* consideration is declared illegal by the statute 16 Car. 2. c. 7. and 9 Ann. c. 14.⁵ The first statute avoids all securities, whether *written* or *verbal*, given to secure any sum of money exceeding £100 lost at play: but the 9 Ann. only avoids *written* contracts, and an action of *assumpsit* will lie to recover money won at play, not amounting to £10⁶. By the 9 Ann. c. 14. s. 1. it is enacted, “that all notes, bills, bonds, judgments, mortgages, or other securities or conveyances whatsoever, given, granted, drawn, or entered into, or executed by any person or persons whatsoever, where the whole or any part of the consideration of such conveyances or securities, shall be, for any money or other valuable thing whatsoever, won by gaming or playing at cards, dice-tables, tennis, bowls, or other game or games whatsoever, or by betting on the sides or hands of such as do game at any of the games aforesaid, or for the reimbursing or repaying any money knowingly lent or advanced for such gaming or betting as aforesaid, or lent or advanced at the time and place of such play, to any per-

¹ *Barnes v. Hedley*, 2 Taunt. 184. which over-rules 1 Campb. 167.

² *Shepherd v. Charter*, 4 T. R. 275.—*George v. Stanley*, 4 Taunt. 683.—See post, 101. n. 2. post, 106. n. 4.

³ *Barclay v. Walmsley*, 4 East. 55.

⁴ *Brooke v. Middleton*, 1 Campb. 445.—*Borrodaile v. Middleton*, 2 Campb. 53. As to the principle on which the law of usury proceeds, see *Molloy v. Irwin*, 1 Scho. & Lef. 312. — *Drew v. Power*, id. 195.

⁵ 1 Pow. 207.—Bac. Ab. tit. Gaming.

⁶ *Bulling v. Frost*, 1 Esp. Rep. 235.

son or persons so gaming or abetting as aforesaid, or that shall, during such play, so play or bett, shall be utterly void, frustrate, and of none effect, to all intents and purposes whatsoever, any statute, law, or usage, to the contrary thereof, in anywise notwithstanding." Under these statutes, a bill of exchange, or promissory note given for a gambling debt is void, even in the hands of a *bonâ fide* holder¹. But as in the case of usury, a renewed security given for a gambling debt will be valid in the hands of a *bonâ fide* holder².

Illegality of consideration, when it vitiates.

A *horse-race* for a plate under £50, is illegal³, but a deposit of £25 a side is sufficient⁴. So *gaming in the lottery* is illegal⁵; and a *stock-jobbing* transaction is declared void by the statute 7 Geo. 2. c. 8.⁶; and a bill of exchange, given in respect of such a transaction, is invalid in the hands of a person who receives it after it is due, or with notice of the circumstances⁷.

¹ *Boyer v. Bampton*, 2 Str. 1155. Several notes given by Bampton to Church, for money lent to game with, were indorsed by Church to the plaintiff, for a full and valuable consideration, and the plaintiff had no knowledge that any part of the consideration from Church to Bampton was money lent for gaming; and after two arguments upon a case reserved, the court held that the plaintiff could not maintain the action, for it would be making the notes of use to the lender if he could pay his debts with them, and it would tend to evade the act, on account of the difficulty of proving notice on an indorsee, and the plaintiff would not be without remedy, for he might sue Church upon his indorsement; and see Bayl. 237.

² *George v. Stanley*, 4 Taunt. 683. The defendant gave the bills in question for the amount of a gaming debt, which when due he renewed with the plaintiff the holder, and when the last-mentioned bills became due, executed a warrant of attorney, and confessed a judgment for the amount, whereon execution being levied, a rule nisi was obtained to have the money restored and the warrant of attorney cancelled, but upon cause being shewn, the court held the defendant ought to have availed himself of this ground of defence when he was applied to for the payment of the first bills, and discharged the rule; but permitted him to try an issue whether the plaintiff were implicated.

³ 13 G. 2. c. 19.—18 G. 2. c. 34. — *Whaley v. Pajot*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 51.—*Robson v. Hall*, Peake's Ca. Ni. Pri. 127.

⁴ *Bidmead v. Gale*, 4 Burr. 2482.

⁵ *Deey v. Shee*, 2 T. R. 617.—*Seddons v. Stratford*, Peake's Ca. Ni. Pri. 215.

⁶ *Faikney v. Reynous*, 4 Burr. 2069.—*Sanders v. Kentish*, 8 T. R. 162.—*Tate v. Wellings*, 3 T. R. 531.

⁷ *Brown v. Turner*, 7 T. R. 630. — *Aubert v. Maze*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 374.—*Steers v. Lashley*, 6 T. R. 61.

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Promissory notes given by a stock-broker for the balance of an account of money advanced to him, to be employed in stock-jobbing transactions, against the statute 7 Geo. 2. c. 8. part of the consideration consisting of the profits on these transactions, proof under his bankruptcy was restrained to the residue, viz. the money received, which he had applied to his own use¹. So a *gaming policy on ships or lives*, or other events, without being interested therein, is invalid².

Other contracts declared void by statute.

Trading *against the laws of the East India Company*³, or the *Russian Company*⁴ is also illegal. And the sale of an office⁵, or of a *vote, or bribery at an election* is invalid⁶. So a *Simoniacal contract*⁷; a stipulation to a *Sheriff*, in consideration of *ease and favour*⁸; a contract in consideration of *signing a bankrupt's certificate*⁹; an *illegal insurance* in the lottery¹⁰; and a contract to ransom any British ship or goods captured by an enemy are declared unlawful¹¹.

Besides these and many other cases of contracts and securities, expressly declared by statute to be void, there are other cases in which the legislature have prohibited a transaction, and a bill or note hav-

¹ Ex parte Bulmer, 13 Ves. jun. 313.

² 19 Geo. 2. c. 37.—Kent v. Bird, Cowp. 583.—Roebuck v. Hamerton, id. 737.—14 Geo. 3. c. 48.—Nantes v. Thompson, 2 East. 385.

³ Lightfoot v. Tenant, 1 Bos. & Pul. 552.

⁴ Grose v. La Page, 1 Holt C. N. P. 105.

⁵ 5 Ed. 6. c. 16.—Blachford v. Preston, 8 T. R. 93.—Parsons v. Thompson, 1 Hen. Bla. 322.—Layng v. Paine, Willes, 571. Com. Dig. "Officer," K. 1.—Bac. Ab. "Officer," F.—Stackpole v. Earle, 2 Wils. 133.

⁶ 2 Geo. 2. c. 24.—Anonymous, Loft. 552.—Sulston v. Norton, 3 Burr. 1235.—The King v. Pitt, 1 Bla. Rep. 380.—Allen v. Hearn, 1 T. R. 56.

⁷ 31 Eliz. c. 6.—Totteridge v. Mackally, Sir W. Jones. 341.—Co. Lit. 206. b.—Layng v. Paine, Willes, 575. n. a.—Bac. Ab. "Simony."

⁸ 23 H. 6. c. 9.—Rogers v. Reeves, 1 T. R. 418.—Samuel v. Evans, 2 T. R. 569.—Sell. Prac. 129 to 137.—1 Pow. 173.

⁹ 5 Geo. 2. c. 30. s. 11.—Smith v. Bromley, Dougl. 696.—Cockshott v. Bennet, 2 T. R. 763.—Nerot v. Wallace, 3 T. R. 17.—Sumner v. Brady, 1 Hen. Bla. 647.

¹⁰ Wyat v. Bulmer, 2 Esp. Rep. 538.

¹¹ Statute 45 Geo. 3. c. 72.—Webb v. Brooke, 3 Taunt. 6.

ing been given to carry into effect such prohibited contract, the instrument has been held void. Thus a bill of exchange, part of the consideration for which was spirituous liquor, sold in quantities of less than twenty shillings value is wholly void, though the other part of the consideration was money lent, because such sale of spirits is contrary to the statute 24 Geo. 2. c. 40.¹ And for the same reason no action can be supported by the plaintiff on a note given to him by the defendant as an apprentice fee, if it appear, that the indenture executed was void by the statute 8 Anne, c. 9. for want of insertion of such premium therein, and a proper stamp in respect to the same, although the plaintiff did, in fact, maintain the apprentice for some time, and until he absconded.² But it is no objection to an action on a promissory note, that it was given as part of the consideration of an indenture of apprenticeship for less than seven years, by being antedated, such indenture being by the statute of Elizabeth, only voidable and not void.³

Where a third person, having given value for a bill, knew at the time he became the holder, that it was originally founded on an illegal transaction⁴, or where a person became holder of such a bill after it became due, he cannot recover on it⁵. However, a person, who at the request of the holder of a bill indorses it, and is obliged to pay the contents to a bona fide holder, may recover the money paid, from any person whose name is on it⁶.

In those cases in which the legislature has declared, that the *illegality* of the contract, or consideration,

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¹ Scott v. Gillmore, 3 Taunt. 226.; but see Spencer v. Smith, 3 Campb. 9.

² Jackson v. Warwick, 7 T. R. 121.

³ Grant v. Welchman, 16 East. 207.

⁴ Steers v. Lashley, 6 T. R. 61.—1 Esp. Rep. 166. S. C.—Wyat v. Bulmer, 2 Esp. Rep. 538.—Brown v. Turner, id. 631.—7 T. R. 630. S. C.—Feise v. Randall, 6 T. R. 146.

⁵ Brown v. Turner, 7 T. R. 630.

⁶ Seddons v. Stratford, Peake's Ni. Pri. R. 215.—Petrie v. Hannay, 3 T. R. 424.—Aubert v. Maze, 2 Bos. & Pul. 371.

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shall make the bill or note void, (as where it is made in consideration of signing a bankrupt's certificate¹, or for money lost by gaming, &c.², or for money lent on an usurious contract³, for the ransom of a ship captured⁴, or made, indorsed, &c. in France during the war, contrary to the 34 Geo. 3. c. 9. s. 4.⁵) the defendant may insist on such illegality, though the plaintiff, or some party between him and the defendant took the bill *bonâ fide*, and gave a valuable consideration for it. And the innocent holder can, in such case, only resort to the party from whom he received the bill, &c. and then he cannot recover upon the same, but only on the original consideration⁶; and a bill of exchange is void in the hands of a *bonâ fide* indorsee, if it were drawn in consequence of an usurious agreement for discounting it, although the drawer, to whose order it was payable, was not privy to this agreement⁷. And it has been recently decided, that if the *payee* of a bill of exchange, indorse it upon an usurious contract made at the time of such indorsement, a *bonâ fide* holder cannot afterwards recover upon it, against the acceptor, because such holder must claim title through such first indorser⁸.

¹ 5 Geo. 2. c. 30. s. 11.—*Smith v. Bromley*, Dougl. 696.—*Sumner v. Brady*, 1 Hen. Bla. 647.—*Bayl.* 237.—*Ante*, 102. n. 9.

² 9 Anne, c. 14. s. 1.—*Bowyer v. Bampton*, Stra. 1155.—*Bul. Ni. Pri.* 274.—*Hussey v. Jacob*, Carth. 356.—*Bayl.* 237.—*Ante*, 101. note 1.

³ 12 Anne, st. 2. c. 16.—*Lowe v. Waller*, Dougl. 736.—*Cuthbert, v. Haley*, 8 T. R. 392.—*Parr v. Eliason*, 1 East. 92. 94.—*Bayl.* 237. *Ante*, 98.

⁴ 45 G. 3. c. 72. s. 16, 17.—*Webb v. Brooke*, 3 Taunt. 6.—*Ante*, 102.

⁵ *Bendelack v. Morier*, 2 Hen. Bla. 338.

⁶ *Id. ibid.*—*Bowyer v. Bampton*, Stra. 1155.—*Wyat v. Bulmer*, 2 Esp. Rep. 538, 9.—*Whitham v. Lee*, 4 Esp. Rep. 264.; and see *ante*, 99. n. 3.

⁷ *Acland v. Pearce*, 2 Campb. 599.; and see *ante*, 99. n. 3.

⁸ *Lowes and another v. Mazzeredo and others*, 1 Stark. 385. This was an action by the plaintiffs as indorsees, against the defendants as acceptors of a bill of exchange, the bill was drawn by one G. Lowes, and indorsed to Sir M. B., and by him to Ambrose, and then to the plaintiffs. The defence was usury in the *first* indorsement, and which was proved. Lord Ellenborough was of opinion, that the plaintiffs were not entitled to recover upon the bill,

But unless it has been so expressly declared by the legislature, illegality of consideration will be no defence in an action at the suit of a *bonâ fide* holder, without notice of the illegality¹, unless he obtained the bill after it became due². Thus in an action by the indorsee against the maker of a promissory note, the defence insisted on was, that the note had been given for hits against the defendant in a lottery insurance: Lord Kenyon, Chief Justice, thought the plaintiff was entitled to recover, observing that the innocent indorsee of a gaming note, or note given on an usurious contract, could not recover, but that in no other case could the innocent indorsee be deprived of his remedy on the note; and that a contrary determination would shake paper credit to the foundation³. And a broker receiving an exorbitant brokerage on the discount of a bill, will not affect its validity in the hands of a *bonâ fide* holder⁴.

In general, a *subsequent* illegal contract or consideration of any description, taking place in a second indorsement or transfer of a bill, and not in its inception, nor in a transfer through which the holder must make title, will not invalidate the same, in the hands of a *bonâ fide* holder⁵. Where a new secu-

since they were obliged to claim through an indorsement, which had been vitiated by usury; but, upon the counsel for the plaintiffs insisting on the case of *Parr v. Eliason*, 1 East. 92. his Lordship permitted the plaintiffs to take a verdict, subject to a motion to enter a nonsuit. A rule nisi having been obtained, and cause shewn, the court were of opinion, that the case of *Parr v. Eliason*, was distinguishable from this, and might be supported upon other grounds; and that the indorsement was entirely avoided by the Statute of Usury, and could not be dismissed for one purpose and retained for another, and that after the case of *Lowe v. Waller*, (ante, 99.) had been acted upon so long, its foundation could not now be enquired into.

¹ *Wyat v. Bulmer*, 2 Esp. Rep. 538.—*Brown v. Turner*, 7 T. R. 630.—*Le Franc v. Dalbiac*, Sel. Ca. 71.

² *Brown v. Turner*, 7 T. R. 630.

³ *Winstanley v. Bowden*, Middlesex sittings after M. T. 41 G. 3. B. R. 1 Selw. 2d edit. 402. id. 4th edit. 370.

⁴ *Dignall v. Wigley*, 11 East. 43.—2 Campb. 33. S. C.—*Jones v. Davison*, Holt C. N. P. 256.

⁵ *Lowes v. Mazzeredo*, 1 Stark. 385.—*Parr v. Eliason*, 1 East. 92. 3 Esp. Rep. 210. S. C.—*Cuthbert v. Haley*, 8 T. R. 391.—3 Esp. Rep. 22. S. C.—*Daniel v. Carteny*, 1 Esp. Rep. 274.—*Turner v. Holme*, 4 Esp. 11.—*Ferrall v. Shacn*, 1 Saund. 294, 5 n. 1. What

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rity is taken, in lieu of another, void in respect of usury, &c. it will be equally invalid in the hands of the party to the first illegal transaction, but not if in the hands of a bona fide holder¹. And a security given by the borrower to a person not privy to the usurious transaction, and to whom the lender is indebted in so much money, shall not be avoided by the usury; as where W. was indebted to A. in £100. for the forbearance of which he agreed to pay more than legal interest, and A. being indebted to E. in £100. W. and A. joined in a bond to E. in payment of his debt, and it was held not usury². And though it has been held otherwise at Nisi Prius, it has recently been decided, that after usurious securities for a loan have been destroyed by mutual consent, and there is a fresh contract by the borrower to repay the principal and legal interest, such fresh contract is valid³. By suffering judgment by default, the defendant loses the opportunity of objecting to the sufficiency or illegality of the consideration⁴. So a warrant of attorney given to the holder of a renewed bill, will not be set aside unless it be shewn that he was privy to the usurious transaction, though the person resisting the payment,

is considered usury in making the bill, see *Young v. Wright*, Campb. N. P. 141. see also 1 Holt, C. N. P. 270.—*Parr v. Eliason*, 1 East. 92. A bill was drawn in favour of the plaintiff, he indorsed it to Persent and Bodeker, upon an usurious consideration, and they indorsed it over, it was afterwards indorsed back to the assignees of P. and B. who had become bankrupts for a debt due to their estate, upon which the plaintiff brought trover to recover back the bill. Lord Kenyon directed a nonsuit, and after a rule nisi, for a new trial, the court held, that as the bill was originally good, and as the indorsement by Persent and Bodeker was unimpeached, their indorsee had a good right to the bill, and that right was transferred to the defendant. (Rule discharged.) Vide also 1 Esp. Rep. 274. S. P.

¹ *Cuthbert v. Haley*, 8 T. R. 390.—*Pickering v. Banks*, Forrest's, R. 72.—*Harrison v. Hannel*, 1 Marsh. 349.—5 Taunt. 780.—*Parr v. Eliason*, 3 Esp. R. 210.—1 East. 92. S. C.—*Witham v. Lee*, 4 Esp. R. 264.—See *Barnes v. Headley*, 1 Campb. Ni. Pri. 187. over-ruled in 2 Taunt. 184.—Holt C. N. P. 270.

² *Ellis v. Warnes*, Cro. Jac. 32.—Yelv. 47.—Moore. 752.—2 Anders. 121.

³ *Barnes v. Headley*, 1 Campb. 187.—Id. 2 Taunt. 184.

⁴ *Shepherd v. Charter*, 4 T. R. 275.—*George v. Stanley*, 4 Taunt. 633.—Ante, 101.

may be permitted to try in an issue whether the party were implicated¹. *Illegality of consideration, when it vitiates.*

The receiving of a bill or note upon an usurious contract, but given for a previous legal subsisting debt, will not extinguish such debt although the security itself will be void²; but where there was usury in the making the bill, or where the holder has himself been a party to the usury, he cannot sue at law or prove under a commission of bankruptcy, even for the amount of principal and lawful interest, though it should seem that if deeds or property have been deposited as a collateral security, he may retain the same until he has been paid such principal and interest³.

The taking of discount in advance on the loan of money secured by bond, even before the statute of Ann. was considered usurious, and we find it laid down that an agreement that the interest on the principal should be retained at the time of the loan, or paid before the expiration of the year, amounts to usury; because the borrower would not have the use of the sum, upon which the interest was taken for the whole year⁴; but an exception to this general rule has been allowed in the discounting of bills of exchange negotiated in the ordinary course of trade, the usual mode of doing which is to take interest upon the whole amount of the bill, at the time the money is advanced, until the time when the bill will become due, and such transaction on a bill of exchange in the way of trade, for the accommodation of the party desirous of raising money is not usurious, though more than five per cent. be in effect taken upon the money actually advanced; for were it otherwise every banker in London, who takes at the rate of *Interest.*

¹ *George v. Stanley*, 4 Taunt. 683.

² *Phillips v. Cockayne*, 3 Campb. 119.—1 Saund. 295, n. 1.

³ *Benfield v. Solomons*, 9 Ves. jun. 84.—*Fitzroy v. Gwillim*, 1 T. R. 153.—*Hindle v. O'Brien*, 1 Taunt. 413.

⁴ *Barnes v. Worledge*, Noy, 41.—*Cro. Jac.* 25.—*Yelv.* 31.—*Moor.* 644. S. C.—*Grimes Ca.* 1 Bulst. 20. and *Per Popham, J.* in *Dalton's Case*, Noy, 171.

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five pounds per cent. for discounting bills, would be guilty of usury; for, if upon discounting a £100 bill at five per cent, he should be construed to lend only £95, then at the end of the time he would receive five pounds interest for the loan of £95 principal, which is above the legal rate¹. In such cases it has been considered that the additional sum is in the nature of a compensation for the trouble to which the lender is exposed; and unless that indulgence were allowed it might not be worth while for any merchant to discount a bill². But if the bill or note be for a large sum, and made or drawn at a period of two or three years, it seems to have been considered that the length of the date of the bill will afford a presumption that the discount is intended as a cover for an usurious bargain; and in the case of a bill of exchange drawn for £5000, and payable three years after date, upon which £750 was retained for discount; such transaction was holden to be usurious, as the sum which was taken for interest was not then due, and the bill was given to secure a much larger sum than legal interest on the sum which would have been due at the end of three years, provided the bill had not been given³.

Commission.

Bankers who discount a bill or note payable at another place may, in addition to the legal interest or discount of five pounds per cent, lawfully take a customary and reasonable sum for remitting the bill or note for payment, and other necessary and incidental expenses; for if they were allowed only five per cent. upon the whole transaction, they might, in consequence of the expenses they incur in their establishment, obtain less remuneration on the discount than other indi-

¹ Per Eyre, C. J. and Blackstone, J. in *Lloyd v. Williams*, Bla. Rep. 792.—3 Wils. 256. S. C.

² Per Lord Alvanley, C. J. in delivering judgment in *Marsh v. Martindale*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 158.—1 Holt C. N. P. 262, 3.

³ See *Marsh v. Martindale*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 154, and the judgment of Lord Alvanley, p. 160, 1.

viduals'. And the right to receive this additional remuneration, does not appear to be confined to cases where the bill is payable at a different place to that where the banker resides, but extends to bills payable in the same place²; and though it has been considered that the case of bankers is dissimilar to that of other persons, on account of the nature of their business, and of the peculiar expence attending it³, yet it seems that a merchant or other person may under circumstances legally receive a commission on discounting bills; as where he has considerable trouble in keeping accounts for the party so charged⁴.

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With respect to the *amount* of the commission which a banker may charge either for discounting, receiving, accepting, or paying bills, there appears to be no settled rule; but it is a question to be left to the jury upon the evidence, whether the charge is reasonable, and commensurate with the trouble and expences incidental to the transaction; if it exceed a fair remuneration, and be mixed with an advance of money, then the transaction will be usurious⁵. The usual commission on discounting bills sanctioned by the decisions, is five

¹ *Winch, qui tam v. Fenn*, cited by Buller, J. in *Auriol v. Thomas*, 2 T. R. 52.—*Ex parte Jones*, 17 Ves. 332.—1 Rose Rep. 29.—*Benson v. Parry*, cited in *Baynes v. Fry*, 15 Ves. jun. 120.—1 Holt C. N. P. 263.

Winch, qui tam v. Fenn. This was an action for usury against the defendant, who was a country banker living at Sudbury. It appeared on the trial that the custom was to discount bills in London, for their correspondents at Sudbury, reserving five shillings per cent. on the gross sum (beyond the legal discount,) without any reference as to the time which the bill had to run. The jury found a verdict for the defendant under the direction of the judge; and Buller, J. in *Auriol v. Thomas*, 2 T. R. 52. referring to the above case, said "it is now clearly settled that the party is entitled to take not only five pounds per cent. for legal interest, but also a reasonable sum for remitting, and other necessary incidental expences. Vide also *Ex parte Jones*, in the matter of *Allen*, 1 Rose Rep. 29. S. P. and 17 Ves. jun. 332. S. C.

² *Masterman v. Cowrie*, 3 Campb. 492.

³ Per Eyre, C. J. *Hammet v. Yea*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 152.

⁴ Per Lord Alvanley, C. J. in *Marsh v. Martindale*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 158.

⁵ *Carstairs v. Stein*, 4 M. & S. 195.—*Palmer v. Baker*, 1 M. & S. 56.—*Harris v. Boston*, 2 Campb. 348.—*Masterman v. Cowrie*, 3 Campb. 492.

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shillings per cent.¹; but there is no rule of law, that it shall not exceed that rate²; and in the case of a very large and complicated account, the commission of one half per cent. was allowed³. But where a party charged seven and sixpence per cent. for commission on discounting a bill, without proving that he had been put to expence, or any considerable degree of trouble in the transaction, it was deemed usurious⁴.

Compound Interest, &c.

Bankers cannot charge interest upon interest, without an express contract for that purpose; and it has even been supposed, that they cannot legally make rests in their accounts, so as to charge interest upon prior interest and commission, but this seems unreasonable; and unless the rests in the account be made too frequently, and out of the ordinary course of business, and for the mere purpose of obtaining compound interest, such rests seem perfectly legal⁵. So also an agent who has advanced money for his principal in effecting insurances, and other mercantile business, is entitled to charge interest, and at the end of every year to make a rest, and add the interest then due to the principal⁶; but

¹ *Winch v. Fenn*, ante, 109. n. 1; but see the cases *Ex parte Jones*, 17 Ves. jun. 332.—1 *Rose*, 29. where one-eighth per cent. was allowed upon discounts.

² Per Lord Ellenborough, *Carstairs v. Stein*, 4 M. & S. 199.

³ *Id. ibid.*

⁴ *Brooke v. Middleton*, 1 Campb. 448.

⁵ *Caliot v. Walker*, 2 Aust. Rep. 495. The defendants in this case acted as bankers, and at the end of every quarter struck a balance, in which was included the principal money advanced by them, all interest then due upon it, and a commission of five shillings for every £100 advanced. This balance was at the end of every quarter converted into principal, and carried interest. This the plaintiff contended to be usury.

The court declared themselves strongly of opinion that this case was not usurious. The statute allows interest not merely of £5 per cent. for a year; but after the rate of £5 per cent. half yearly payments of interest, or the discounting bills at the beginning of the time when they have to run, have both been argued to be usurious, as being a greater profit than £5 per cent. for a year; but both these cases have been held to be legal, because they are after the rate of £5 per cent. So here the payment of interest quarterly is not illegal, and the custom of the place and practice of the parties being to strike a balance at those periods, brings it to the case of a fresh agreement, at the beginning of each quarter to lend the sum then due. So the commission claimed may be a fair value for the trouble of the defendants, and unless it appeared to be a mere colour for usury, we should be very unwilling to decide against the general custom of the place.

⁶ *Bruce v. Hunter*, 3 Campb. 467.

where bankers seek to recover interest upon monies advanced to a customer, it is not sufficient to shew that it was the general custom of their house to charge interest calculated upon half yearly rests, without also shewing that such customer knew that such was the practice².

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In all cases where bankers make any charge by way of commission for extra trouble or expence they may be put to, in transacting the business of a party, it is advisable to detach the charges for the trouble of keeping the accounts from the charge of interest for forbearance; and if a banker undertake to conduct any transaction not in his ordinary mode of business, and stipulate for a certain charge to be made by him in consideration of such extra trouble and expence, independently "of all costs, charges, damages, and expences that he may be put to by means of the premises," it is not usurious; for trouble is not necessarily to be intended as a colorable reservation of further interest beyond the legal interest, but as a compensation for trouble not comprehended within the words "costs, charges, damages, and expences¹."

¹ Moore and others v. Voughton, 1 Stark. 487.

² Palmer and Wilkins v. Baker, 1 M. & S. 57. The plaintiffs in this case were bankers, and had been put into possession of certain timber of I. H. and brought an action of trover against the defendant, who was sheriff of Worcestershire, to recover the value of part of the timber taken by him in execution, at the suit of a creditor of I. H. The cause was tried at the assizes at Worcester, and the plaintiffs had a verdict, subject to a question of law, upon the construction of a deed made between I. H. and the plaintiffs, which recited an agreement between I. H. and one I. L. for the purchase of growing timber, for £4800, which timber was to be paid for by I. H. part on the execution of the agreement, and the rest by bankers' acceptances at different dates. The indenture further recited, that I. H. being indebted to the plaintiffs in £1424, for the balance of an account between them, that he had agreed to assign the said agreement and all his interest under it to the plaintiffs, they undertaking to fulfil the agreement, with respect to the making the several payments at the times and in manner therein mentioned, upon the trust in the first place out of the proceeds which might from time to time arise from the sale of the timber, to retain and repay themselves the purchase-money, as aforesaid, then the said £1424, owing to them from I. H. upon his account stated, together with the interest thereof, at five per cent. up to the time of payment, and also the further sum of £200, as and for a reasonable profit and compensation for the trouble they would be at in the present business, and also all costs, charges, damages, and expences, which they should or might expend, be put to, or be

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The party discounting a bill should pay the amount, less the interest in cash, or if he give a bill or draft in exchange, he should allow a rebate of interest for the time the latter has to run; for, if he were to impose upon the party applying for the discount of such draft or bill, without allowing interest thereon, the transaction would be usurious¹. But where A. being a banker in the country, discounted bills at four months for B., and took the whole interest for the time they had to run, and B. on being asked how he would have the money, directed part to be carried to his account, and

liable for, on account of the premises, or in anywise relating thereto. A rule nisi, for setting aside the verdict, was obtained, upon the ground that the covenant for payment of £200, (besides the money advanced by them, and interest thereon, and all costs, charges, damages, and expences) by way of compensation for trouble, was usurious upon the face of it, and therefore void, and upon cause shewn, the court were of opinion, that upon looking to the trusts of the deed, there appeared a considerable share of trouble imposed upon the persons who were to carry the trust into effect, which entitled them to compensation, and that to a considerable amount beyond the interest reserved, and although special provision was made for reimbursing them all costs, charges, damages, and expences, which they might be put unto, yet that was to be confined to expences incurred by them in cutting down and felling the timber, but that there might be other sources of expence incurred by them, which would not properly fall under either of those heads, and that, under the special circumstances of the case, the £200 was not more than their trouble might require in getting back their principal and interest, and discharged the rule.

¹ Matthews, *qui tam v. Griffiths*, Peake 200.; and see also Hammett *v. Yea*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 144. Per Eyre, C. J.—Maddock *v. Hammett*, 7 T. R. 185.

Matthews, *qui tam v. Griffiths and others*, Peake's Ni. Pri. Ca. p. 200. This was an action on the statute against usury. The defendants were bankers at Portsmouth, and Mrs. S. residing there, drew a bill for £600, on her agent in London, payable to the defendants or order, thirty days after date, which the defendants discounted by giving her their note for £600, payable in London, at three days after sight; for this the defendants received a discount at five per cent. calculating on the thirty days the bill had to run, but making no deduction on account of the three days grace which the bankers took thereon; it appeared that the money to be received on the draft was intended to be remitted to London, but the defendants gave their note at three days sight, without asking any questions as to the mode in which she would be paid the money.

Lord Kenyon said he was clearly of opinion, that this was an usurious contract, whether the person discounting the bill, chose to receive a note or money. If Mrs. S. chose to have a note payable in town, the defendant should not have taken interest for the time that note had to run, but should compute his interest from the time it was payable. See also Floyer *v. Edwards*, Cowp. 112.

part to be paid in cash, and the residue by bills on London, some at three, others at seven, and others at thirty days sight, it was decided not to be an usurious transaction so as to induce the court to grant a new trial, it appearing to have been entirely optional on the part of the holder, to receive the amount of the bill which was discounted in cash or bills¹.

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Where a party is *compelled* to take goods in discounting a bill of exchange, a presumption arises that the transaction is usurious, and to rebut this presumption, evidence must be given of the value of the goods by the person who has supplied the goods, and sues on the bill². But where in discounting a bill, a proposal is made that goods shall be taken, although such proposal originate with the plaintiff, yet if the other party readily accede to it, thinking that he shall make a profit by the transaction, the presumption is, that the goods are fairly charged, and it lies upon the defendant to prove the contrary if he would impeach the plaintiff's title to the bill upon the ground of usury³.

¹ Hammett v. Yea, 1 Bos. & Pul. 144. 152.

² Davis v. Hardacre, 2 Campb. 375. Indorsee against the drawer of a bill of exchange, defence usury; it appeared that the defendant had applied to the plaintiff to discount a bill of exchange drawn by him. Plaintiff insisted, on consideration of his taking in part a landscape in imitation of Poussin, to be valued at £150. The defendant offered to prove that the plaintiff had purchased the picture for a less sum than £150, and which was its full value. Lord Ellenborough, before whom the cause was tried, said, "where a party is compelled to take goods in discounting a bill of exchange, I think a presumption arises that the transaction is usurious. To rebut this presumption, evidence should be given of the value of the goods by the person who sues on the bill. In the present case I must require such evidence to be adduced; and I wish it may be understood, that in similar cases, this is the rule by which I shall be governed for the future. When a man goes to get a bill discounted, his object is to procure cash, not to encumber himself with goods. Therefore, if goods are forced upon him, I must have proof that they were estimated at a sum for which he could render them available upon a re-sale, not at what might possibly be a fair price to charge to a purchaser who stood in need of them." 1 Holt C. N. P. 226. S. C. See also Pratt v. Wiley, 1 Esp. 40.—1 Esp. 11.

³ Coombe v. Miles, 2 Campb. 553. Defendant was acceptor of a bill of exchange drawn by Plimpton and Co. and by them indorsed to plaintiff. The defence was, that plaintiff had been guilty of usury in the discounting the bill, in obliging Plimpton to take a quantity of

Illegality of consideration, when it vitiates.

The charge of commission, with reference to bills, is not confined to a transaction of discount; for an agent may charge a reasonable commission beyond legal interest for his trouble in procuring the acceptance and payment of bills'. So bankers and others may sustain a similar charge for accepting and paying bills, being provided with funds for such purpose before they became due, in which case, as there would be no advance of money, the transaction could in no point of view be deemed usurious; but if an advance of money by such acceptors be in contemplation, it would then be a question of fact for a jury, whether the commission was a shift to obtain more than legal interest for the forbearance, or a compensation for the trouble and expence incurred in accepting and paying the bills'. But if the acceptor of a bill, at the request of the holder, discount such bill, and receive more than five per cent. for the time it has to run, this transaction, however improper, will not constitute usury, it being a mere anticipation of payment by the party primarily liable on the bill, and not a transaction of loan or forbearance sufficient to bring it within the terms of the statute against usury¹.

So where a person, in order to get his acceptances negotiated, agrees with a broker to allow him to re-

ready-made waistcoats at a given price. Plimpton agreed to take the waistcoats, *as he thought he could make a profit of them*. It was contended for the defendant, on the authority of *Davis v. Hardacre*, (last note) that the plaintiff was bound to shew the waistcoats were of the value charged. Lord Ellenborough said, where circumstances of strong suspicion appear, I think it is fair to call upon the person who gives goods in discounting a bill of exchange, to shew that they were of the real value at which they were charged, but here, although the proposal to take the waistcoats originated with the plaintiff, the other party readily acceded to it, and said he thought he should make a profit by it. Upon this evidence therefore, we must presume that the goods were charged beneath their true value, and it lies on the defendant to prove to the contrary if he would impeach the plaintiff's title to the bill on the ground of usury. Verdict for plaintiff.

¹ *Baynes v. Fry*, 15 Ves. 120.

² *Masterman v. Cowric*, 3 Campb. 488.—*Kent v. Lowen*, 1 Campb. 178.—*Hanner v. Borton*, 2 Campb. 348.—See cases, 1 Taunt. 511.—1 Holt C. N. P. 266.

³ *Barclay v. Walmsley*, 4 East. 55.—5 Esp. 11, S. C. but see *Pothier Traite de l'Usure*, part 2. sect. 5. num. 128.

tain exorbitant brokerage, as 10 per cent. out of the money received, upon getting them discounted, the broker himself, not being the party to discount them; a bill accepted and negotiated upon such agreement is not therefore void¹. *Illegality of consideration, when it vitiates.*

It is said by Marius, that if the drawer of a bill is himself to be the debtor, then he inserts in the bill these words—"and put it to my account;" but if the drawee, or person to whom it is directed, be debtor to the drawer, then he inserts the following words—"and put it to *your* account;" and that sometimes, where a third person is debtor to the drawee, it is expressed in the bill thus—"and put it to the account of *A. B.*." It is, however, perfectly unnecessary to insert in a bill any of these words. *13th, The direction to place it to account.*

(14)—The propriety of inserting the words, "*as per advice*," depends on the question whether or not the person on whom the bill is drawn is to expect further direction from the drawer. Bills are sometimes made payable "*as per advice*;" at other times, "without further advice;" and generally without any of these words. In the former case, the drawee may not, but in the latter he may, pay before he has received advice. *14th, Of the words, "as per advice."*

(15)—To give effect to the bill, &c. the *drawer's name* must either be subscribed, or inserted in the body of it²; and it must be written either by the *15th, Drawer's name.*

¹ Dagnall v. Wigley, 11 East. 43.—Ex parte Henson, 1 Maddox, 112.

² Mar. p. 27.—Com. Dig. tit. Merchant, F. 5.—Thomas v. Bishop, R. T. Hardw. 1, 2, 3.

³ Poth. pl. 36. 169.

⁴ Beawes, pl. 3.—Elliott v. Cooper, Ld. Raym. 1376.—1 Stra. 609; 8 Mod. 307. S. C.—Ereskine v. Murray, Ld. Raym. 1542.—Taylor v. Dobbins, 1 Stra. 399.—Bayl. 16, 17.

Elliott v. Cowper, Stra. 609.—Ld. Raym. 1376.—8 Mod. 307.—It was objected on demurrer to a declaration on a note, that it alleged only; that the defendant made it, but did not state that he signed it; but, *by the court*, if he did not either write or sign it, he did not make it, for making implies signing, and making is alleged. Judgment for plaintiff.

Ereskine v. Murray, Ld. Raym. 1542. In an action on a bill, it was alleged, that the plaintiff made his bill in writing, and thereby required the defendant to pay. It was objected on error, that it did not appear that the plaintiff signed the bill; but it was answered that

15th, Drawer's
Name.

person purporting to be the drawer, or by some person authorized by him¹. If drawn and signed by an agent, it is usual to sign it as follows: "*A. B. per procuration C. D.*" and if he do not express for whom he signs, he may be personally liable². If signed by one person for himself and partners, it is usual and advisable to subscribe the name of the firm, or at least to sign it as follows: "*A. B. for A. B. and Company,*" or to that effect³; but it is sufficient if it purport in any way to have been signed on behalf of the firm⁴. If a bill purport to be drawn in the name of a firm as consisting of several persons, in an action by the indorsee against the acceptor, the declaration may aver in the plural, that certain persons using that firm, drew the bill, although, in point of fact, the bill were drawn by a single person using the name of that firm⁵; and where money was deposited in the bank of England, in the names of three assignees, it was ordered by the Chancellor to be paid to the cheques of the two⁶.

It is not usual, nor indeed prudent, for the drawer of a bill or check to sign his name before it is filled up in every respect; for if a person sign his name upon

the allegation that he made it, and required the defendant to pay, implied that his name was in it, (otherwise he could not request) and that he or somebody wrote it for him. Judgment for the plaintiff was affirmed.

Taylor v. Dobbins, 1 Stra. 399. The declaration upon a note stated that the defendant wrote it with his own hand, but did not allege that he signed it, and an exception was taken upon that ground. *Sed per cur.* If the defendant wrote it, his subscription to it was unnecessary; it is sufficient if his name appeared in any part. "J. S. promise to pay" is as good as "I promise to pay" subscribed J. S. See also *Saunderson v. Jackson*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 238.

¹ Ante, 32.—Bayl. 17.

² *Thomas v. Bishop*, Stra. 955.—Ante, 36, n. 4.

³ *Smith v. Jarves*, *Ld. Raym.* 1484. The declaration upon a note drawn by Jarves and Bailey, stated, that Jarves for himself and partner made his note in writing with his own hand subscribed, whereby he promised for himself and partner to pay. It was objected on demurrer, that it was not charged that Jarves had signed the note for himself and Bailey, but the court held, the statement shewed that Jarves did sign for himself and Bailey, and gave the plaintiff judgment.

⁴ Ante, 51.

⁵ *Bass v. Clive*, 4 Campb. 78.—4 M. & S. 13. S. C.

⁶ *Ex parte Hunter and another*, 2 Rose, 363.

blank paper, stamped with a bill stamp, and deliver it to another to draw above the signature, he will be liable to pay to a bonâ fide holder, any sum warranted by the stamp ¹. 15th, Drawer's name.

(16)—A bill of exchange being in its nature an open letter of request, from the maker to a third person, should be properly *addressed* to that person ². This address, it is said, is usually made by the Italians and Dutch on the back of the bill, but the French and the English uniformly subscribe the direction, in the form to which this paragraph refers; and this latter mode is recommended as preferable to the other, because, as the paper on which a bill is usually written is but small, if the direction were on the back of it, there would be very little room left for indorsements, which frequently are very numerous: nor would there be any space on which to write the receipt for payment ³. A bill directed to A., or in his absence to B., and beginning “pray, gentlemen, pay, &c.” being accepted only by A., may be declared upon without noticing B ⁴. If a bill be intended to be accepted by two or more persons, it should be addressed accordingly, for where a bill was drawn upon one person and was accepted by him and another, it was decided that only the first party was liable as acceptor ⁵. 16th, Direction to the drawee.

(17, 18)—It is said that the *place where the payment is to be made* should be fully expressed in the subscription, or body of the bill ⁶; and, that if a bill be drawn upon a person not resident at the place where the drawer intends the bill to be payable, the place where the drawee resides, as well as the place where payment is to be made, should be mentioned in the subscription ⁷. In general, however, the drawer merely 17th, 18th, Place of payment.

¹ Collis v. Emett, 1 Hen. Bla. 313.—Ante, 32. n. 1.

² Poth. pl. 35.—Beawes, pl. 3.—Mar. 143.

³ Mar. 44.—Com. Dig. tit. Merchant, F. 5.

⁴ Anonymous, 12 Mod. 447.

⁵ Jackson v. Hudson, 2 Campb. 447.

⁶ Mar. 107, 8.

⁷ Beawes, pl. 3.

17th, 18th, Place
of payment.

states the address of the drawee, without pointing out the place of payment.

When it is intended that the bill should be payable at a particular place, it is advisable to insert such place in the body of the bill, as "Two months after date pay to my order in London," &c. but it will suffice to insert such direction in the address to the drawee, as "To Messrs. A. and B. Plymouth, payable in London." In these cases the place of payment forms part of the contract; and in pleading, the bill must be described accordingly¹; but in the case of a note, if the place of payment be merely inserted as a memorandum at the bottom, and not in the body, it will form no part of the contract, and must not be stated in the declaration².

In general, no witness is essential to the validity of a bill of exchange or promissory note³; but in the case of bills drawn for a less sum than five pounds, a witness is necessary⁴, and in other cases, if there be a subscribing witness, the instrument must be proved by subpoenaing him.

How bills, &c.
are construed and
given effect to.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE, like every other contract, are to be construed in such a manner as, if possible, to

¹ *Hodge v. Fillis and another*, 3 Campb. 463. This was an action by the indorsee of a bill of exchange, drawn by Messrs. W. and A. Maxwell, at Cork, upon the defendants, and directed to them as follows: "To Messrs. Fillis and Co. Plymouth, payable in London." The bill was accepted by the defendants, payable at Sir John Perring's and Co. bankers, London. The plaintiff proved the handwriting of the acceptors and indorsers. It was contended for the defendant, that the plaintiff could not upon this evidence be entitled to a verdict, as there could be no doubt that where a particular place of payment is denoted both by drawers and acceptors, it becomes a term of the contract between the parties, and an averment that the bill was presented for payment there, could not possibly be rejected as irrelevant. Lord Ellenborough, before whom the cause was tried, expressed himself to be of this opinion. The plaintiff had a verdict on another ground.

² *Price v. Mitchell*, 4 Campb. 200.—*Exon v. Russell*, 4 M. & S. 505.

³ *Marius*, 14.

⁴ *Ante*, 66.—17 Geo. 3. c. 30. sect. 1. and post, Appendix.

give effect to the intention of the contracting parties; and, indeed, our courts, sensible how peculiarly conducive the negotiability of these instruments is to the ease and increase of trade, adopt a still more liberal mode of construing them than any other instrument¹.

Construction of
bills, &c.

It has been observed by a celebrated writer on moral philosophy², that “every contract should be construed and enforced according to the sense in which the person making it apprehended the person, in whose favour it was made, understood it; which mode of interpretation will exclude evasion, in cases in which the popular meaning of a phrase, and the strict grammatical signification of words differ, or in general whenever the contracting party attempts to make his escape through some ambiguity in the expression which he used.” These observations are applicable to the mode of construing a bill of exchange; thus, in a case before Lord Macclesfield, where a man for a past consideration gave a person a promissory note, in the beginning of which it was mentioned to be given for “twenty pounds borrowed and received,” but at the latter end were the words, “which I promise *never* to pay;” it was decided that the payee might recover on it, because the person making the note had intentionally excited expectations which he ought to satisfy³; so if a bill be drawn payable to the *order* of a fictitious person, it may *ut res magis valeat quam pereat* be recovered upon against all the parties privy to the transaction, as a bill payable to *bearer*, on the principle, that as they gave currency to the instrument, which they knew could never be paid to the order of the fictitious payee, the law will presume they intended that the formality of indorsement should be waived⁴. Effect is also to be given to the intention of the parties according to the law of the country where the

¹ *Hotham v. East India Company*, Dougl. 277.

² *Paley*, 126.—*Anderson v. Pitcher*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 168.

³ Cited in *Simpson v. Vaughan*, 2 Atk. 32.

⁴ *Gibson v. Minet*, 1 Hen. Bla. 586.—*Ante*, 83, 4.

Construction of
bills, &c.

contract is made, and in which it is to be performed, and not according to the law of the country into which either or all of them may remove¹; for what is not an obligation in one place, cannot, by the laws of another country, become such in another place²; and therefore where the defendant gave the plaintiff in a foreign country, where both were resident, a bill of exchange drawn by the defendant upon a person in England, which bill was afterwards protested here for non-acceptance, and the defendant afterwards, while still resident abroad, became bankrupt there, and obtained a certificate of discharge by the law of that state, it was held that such certificate was a bar to an action here, upon an implied assumpsit to pay the amount of the bill in consequence of such non-acceptance in England³. The time of payment, is, however, in general to be calculated according to the laws of the country where the bill is made payable⁴; thus upon a bill drawn at a place using one style, and payable at a place using the other, if the time is to be reckoned from the date, it shall be computed according to the style of the place at which it is drawn, otherwise according to the style of the place where it is payable, and in the former case, the date must be reduced or carried forward to the style of the place where the bill is payable, and the time reckoned from thence⁵. It has been observed⁶, that this is contrary to the reason and the nature of the thing; yet, other writers entertain a different opinion; and it is said, that a bill of exchange is considered in this respect as having

¹ *Burrows v. Jemino*, 2 Stra. 733.—*Sel. Ca.* 144. S. C. *Potter v. Brown*, 5 East. 130.

² *Melan v. De Fitzjames*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 141.—*Talleyrand v. Boulanger*, 3 Ves. jun. 447.—*Gienar v. Meyer*, 2 Hen. Bla. 603.—*Moslyn v. Fabrigas*, Cowp. 174.—*Robinson v. Bland*, Burr. 1077.—*Folliott v. Ogden*, 1 Hen. Bla. 123.—*Alyes v. Hodson*, 7 T. R. 242.—*Da Costa v. Cole*, Skin. 272.—*Potter v. Brown*, 5 East. 130.—*Johnson v. Machielyne*, 3 Campb. 44.

³ *Potter v. Brown*, 5 East. 124.

⁴ *Beawes*, pl. 251.—*Mar.* 102.

⁵ See *Bayl.* 112, 113.—*Mar.* 75, 89 to 92. 101 to 103.

⁶ *Kyd.* 8.

been made at the place where it is payable, according to the maxim, *contraxisse unusquisque in eo loco intelligitur in quo ut solveret se obligavit*, and that consequently the contract should be construed and regulated according to the laws and usage of that place to which the contracting parties have understood themselves subject, following the other rule, *in contractibus veniunt ea quæ sunt moris et consuetudinis in regione in quâ contrahitur*¹. It further appears, that although the *form* of the remedy must depend on the laws of the country in which it is pursued, it will, in respect of the *extent* of it, be subject to the same regulations and restrictions as if it had been pursued in the country where the contract was made; and therefore if a man in a foreign country enter into a contract to be there performed, the fulfilment of which cannot in that country be enforced by arrest, he cannot in this country be holden to bail².

It has been observed by a celebrated writer on the law of nations³, that it is the first general maxim of interpretation, "that it is not allowable to interpret what has no need of interpretation;" and that when a deed is worded in clear and precise terms, when its meaning is evident, and leads to no absurd conclusion, there can be no reason for refusing to admit the meaning which such deed *naturally* presents; to go elsewhere in search of conjectures, in order to restrict or extend it, is but an attempt to elude it, and if this dangerous method were once admitted, every deed might be rendered useless. It seems that on similar principles, our courts, notwithstanding their anxiety to give effect to the intentions of the contracting parties, have laid it down as a general rule, that all latitude of construction must submit to this restriction,

Construction of
bills, &c.

¹ Poth. pl. 155.—Bayl. 68.

² *Melan v. De Fitzjames*. 1 Bos. & Pul. 141. — *Pedder v. Mac Master*, 8 T. R. 609.—*Potter v. Brown*, 5 East. 124. but see *Imlay v. Ellefsen*, 2 East. 255.—Tidd, 6th ed. 218.

³ *Vattel*, 224. et vide *Powell on Contracts*, tit. Construction.

Construction of
bills, &c.

namely, that the *words and language* of the deed bear the sense which is attempted to be put upon them¹. However, in the case of bills, and other negotiable instruments, our courts have relaxed this rule, and therefore in the case just alluded to, where an action was brought by an *indorsee* of a bill of exchange against the acceptor, and he could not prove an indorsement by the payee, evidence was admitted to prove that the payee was a fictitious person, and consequently could not indorse it; and it was adjudged, that as the drawer and acceptor knew of such fact, the bill should against them operate as a bill payable originally to bearer, and that the holder might recover thereon as such². The courts have always in mercantile affairs endeavoured to adapt the rules of law to the course and method of trade and commerce, in order to promote it, and when new cases have arisen on the mercantile law, they consult traders and merchants as to their usage in regard to bills³.

Delivery of a bill
to the payee; and
effect thereof.

A BILL OF EXCHANGE, &c. in general, is delivered by the drawer to the payee, and where it consists of several parts, as is usual in the case of foreign bills, each ought to be delivered to the person in whose favour it is made, unless one part be forwarded to the drawee for acceptance, and in that case the rest must be so delivered; were it otherwise, difficulties might arise in negotiating a bill, or obtaining payment of it⁴, though a delivery is not essential to vest the legal interest in the payee⁵.

¹ Anderson v. Pitcher, 2 Bos. & Pul. 168.—Hotham v. East India Company, Dougl. 277.—Burnet v. Kensington, 7 T. R. 214.

² Gibson v. Minet, 1 H. B. 569. and see ante, 83, 4, note.

³ Per Willes, C. J. in Stone v. Rawlinson, Willes, 561. — Barnes, 164. S. C. but see 1 Holt C. N. P. p. 99. in notes.

⁴ Ante, 80, 1.—Bayl. 19.

⁵ Smith v. M'Clure, 5 East. 477. The plaintiff declared on a bill payable to his own order, and averred that he delivered it to the defendant, to whom it was addressed, and who accepted it according

In general one contract not under seal cannot be extinguished by another similar contract¹, and a mere promise to give time for the payment of a pre-existing debt, is not binding². But a person by taking a bill of exchange or promissory note, in satisfaction of a former debt, or of a debt created at the time, is precluded from afterwards waiving it, and suing the person who gave it him, for the original debt before the bill is due; for the taking of the bill amounts to an agreement to give the person delivering it credit for the length of time it has to run³. And even on behalf of the crown an extent in aid cannot be issued against a person from whom the principal debtor has taken a bill which is not due⁴. But where an action

Effect of delivery
of bill to payee.

to the usage and custom, &c. and by reason of the premises, &c. the defendant became liable to pay. The defendant demurred specially, and assigned as cause, that it was not alleged that the defendant re-delivered the bill to the plaintiff, *Per curiam*, the acceptance of the bill, which was admitted by the demurrer, and must be taken to be a perfect acceptance, vested a right in the drawer to sue upon it, and if, after such an acceptance, the acceptor improperly detained the bill in his hands, the drawer might nevertheless sue him on it, and give him notice to produce the bill, and on his default, give parol evidence of it.

¹ *Story v. Atkins*, *Ld. Raym.* 1430.—*Scott v. Surman*, *Willes*, 406. *Taylor v. Wasteneys*, 2 *Stra.* 1218.

² *De Symons v. Minchwick*, 1 *Esp. Rep.* 430.

³ *Stedman v. Gooch*, 1 *Esp.* 3. Assumpsit for goods sold; defence that plaintiff had taken three promissory notes of Finlay; it appeared that these notes had been returned to the defendant before they were payable, and it was insisted, that the plaintiff having taken them in discharge of her debt for goods sold, could not maintain an action on her original debt until an actual default in the payment of these notes, as the notes might be paid when they became due, nor should the plaintiff be allowed to judge of the probable or improbable ability of the party to pay at a future day.

Lord Kenyon said, that the law was clear, and that if in payment of a debt, the creditor is content to take a bill or note payable at a future day, he cannot legally commence an action on his original debt, until such bill or note becomes payable, or default is made in the payment; but that if such bill or note is of no value, as if, for example, drawn on a person who has no effects of the drawer's in his hands, and who therefore refuses it, in such case he may consider it as waste paper, and resort to his original demand, and sue the debtor on it.

⁴ *The King v. Dawson*, *Wightwick* 32. It was pleaded to an inquisition founded on an extent in aid, that the defendant had accepted a bill drawn upon him by J. C. (the original debtor) and which did not become due until after the inquisition was taken; the replication stated, that the bill was dishonoured, and that the original debtor to

Effect of delivery
of bill to payee.

having been brought against the acceptor of a bill of exchange, it was agreed between the parties that the defendant should pay the costs, renew the bill, and give a warrant of attorney to secure the debt, and the defendant gave the warrant of attorney and renewed the bill, but did not pay the costs, it was held that the plaintiff might bring a fresh action on the first bill, while the second was outstanding in the hands of an indorsee¹. And if the person delivering the bill knew that it was of no value, the holder, on discovering the fraud, will not be precluded from immediately suing such party on his original liability². We have already seen what conduct the holder may pursue, when a bill or note given in payment of a debt, is upon a wrong stamp³. Where one of three joint covenantors gave a bill of exchange for part of a debt secured by the covenant, on which bill judgment was recovered, it was held that such judgment was no bar to an action of covenant against the three, such bill, though stated to have been given for the payment and in satisfaction of the debt, not being averred to have been accepted as satisfaction nor to have produced it in fact⁴. And the taking a bill or note does not prejudice a prior specialty security, so as to preclude the party taking them from recovering interest payable on the specialty⁵. And it

the crown, had been obliged to take it up; upon demurrer, that as the inquisition was executed before the bill became due, the bill could not, at that time, have been taken up by the said J.C. The court held, that as on the day of taking the inquisition, no action could have been maintained by J.C. against the defendant upon this bill of exchange, the interest in the bill at that time being in his indorsee, there was, in fact, at that time, no right of action against any person.

¹ *Norris v. Aylett*, 2 Campb. 329. Per Lord Ellenborough. There was to be no extinguishment of the bill, (until amongst other things) the costs were paid. If they had been paid this might have brought it within the case of *Kearlake v. Morgan*, but the agreement remaining unperformed on the part of the defendant, the plaintiff reserved to himself the power of rendering the bill available; this is like accord without satisfaction. Verdict for the plaintiff, on his delivering up the substituted bill to the defendant.

² *Stedman v. Gooch*, 1 Esp. Rep. 5.—*Anonymous*, 12 Mod. 517. *Puckford v. Maxwell*, 6 T. R. 52.—*Owenson v. Morse*, 7 T. R. 64.

³ *Ante*, 75.

⁴ *Drake v. Mitchel*, 3 East. 251.

⁵ *Curtis v. Rush*, 2 Ves. & B. 416.

has been held that a vendor does not waive his lien on the estate sold, by taking the promissory note or acceptance of the vendee, and receiving its amount by discount¹. Bills, in lieu of which other bills were given, if permitted to remain with the holder, may be sued upon in case the latter bills are not paid². When an account for goods sold is settled, and the defendant gives a bill of exchange for the amount which remains unpaid, it has been holden that the defendant cannot, in an action on the consideration of such bill, go into evidence to impeach the charges in the first account which has been settled, the giving of the bill being conclusive evidence of the sum due³.

Effect of delivery of bill to payee.

The effect of taking a bill of exchange or promissory note in satisfaction of a precedent debt, is, that the creditor cannot proceed in an action for such debt, without shewing that he has used due diligence to obtain acceptance or payment⁴; and also shewing if the

¹ Ex parte Loaring, 2 Rose, 79. — Grant v. Mills, 2 Ves. & B. 306.

² Ex parte Barclay, 7 Ves. jun. 597. Barclay was indorsee and holder of two bills drawn by Kemp upon Dearlow, and indorsed by Clay to Barclay; these bills were dishonoured, and Clay drew two other bills upon Sampson for the amount of the former bills, interest, and charges, and the former bills were permitted to remain with Barclay; one of the two last bills was paid by Sampson. Upon petition by Barclay to be allowed to prove these bills under a commission of bankrupt against Kemp, it was objected on the ground that the two latter bills were accepted in discharge of them. Lord Chancellor. If two bills are dishonored, and two others given "*in lieu*" of them, but the former allowed to stay in the hands of the holder, that fact will give a constriction to the words "*in lieu*," and the meaning will be only in case they are paid. See also Bishop v. Rowe, 3 M. & S. 363.

³ Knox v. Whalley, 1 Esp. Rep. 159. — (Sed quæ. Trueman v. Hurst, 1 T. R. 40. — Chandler v. Dorsett, Finch Rep. 431. Vin. Ab. Partner, E. 2.) The defendant was indebted to the plaintiff £74, for clothes, &c. and gave him a bill of exchange for £84. and received the difference. The bill being dishonored, plaintiff brought his action on the bill and for a further sum for clothes furnished since the bill was given. At the trial the defendant was proceeding to impeach the plaintiff's charges contained in the first bill, which was objected to by the counsel for the plaintiff. Lord Kenyon ruled, that up to the time of the giving the bill of exchange, all matters must be considered as closed, and that the giving the bill must, to that effect, be taken as conclusive evidence of the sum due at that time.

⁴ Smith v. Wilson, Andr. 187. This was a special case for the opinion of the court. It appeared that the defendant being indebted to the plaintiff for goods sold, and money paid, had in part payment,

Effect of delivery
of bill to payee.

defendant was a party thereto, or delivered it to the plaintiff, that the defendant had due notice of the dishonor¹; and it is a good plea in an action for the original debt, that the defendant delivered a bill or note in payment, or for or on account of such debt, and compels the plaintiff to reply that the bill or note has been dishonoured²; and in an action for the original demand, if it appear in evidence that a negotiable bill or note was given, the plaintiff cannot recover without producing the instrument, or proving that it was destroyed.³ It suffices, however, for the plaintiff,

indorsed to him a note for £100, drawn by Jones, and payable to defendant or order; and at the foot of an account stated between the parties, plaintiff wrote, "received the contents, when the above mentioned bill is paid." Plaintiff indorsed over the note which became due, 28th March, 1735. Jones carried on business, and continued his payments till the 13th May following; one question therefore was, whether the plaintiff, by receiving this note, and not applying for the money due thereon, had lost his original debt? The court held, that where a note is taken for a precedent debt, it must be intended to be taken by way of payment, upon this condition, that the note is paid in a reasonable time, but if the person accepting it, doth not endeavour to procure such payment, and the money is lost by his default, it is but reasonable that he should bear the loss, *sec Ward v. Evans*, 2 *Ld. Raym.* 928, 9, 30.—*Chamberlain v. Delarive*, 2 *Wils.* 353.

Hebden v. Hartsink and another, 4 *Esp. Ni. Pri.* 46. Assumpsit by the plaintiff for wages as a clerk to the defendant. Pleas of non-assumpsit and a set-off. To prove payment of £140, in part discharge of the plaintiff's demand, the defendants gave in evidence that they had given him bills of the house to that amount. It was contended for the plaintiff, that before this could be deemed a discharge to that amount, the defendants should prove the bills to have been paid. Lord Kenyon said, it was not necessary; that where a party took bills in payment of a debt, he would presume the money was received, unless the contrary was shewn.

¹ 4 *Ann. c.* 9. s. 7.—*Bridges v. Berry*, 3 *Taunt.* 130. but *sec Bishop v. Rowe*, 3 *M. & S.* 362.

² *Kearslake v. Morgan*, 5 *T. R.* 513. Assumpsit for goods sold and delivered, and for money lent. The defendant pleaded the general issue, and that as to £4. 14s. 6d. one W. P. made his promissory note for £10, payable to the defendant or order, at a time which elapsed before the commencement of the suit, and that the defendant, before the note became due, indorsed it to the plaintiff, for and on account of the said sum of £4. 14s. 6d. and of the sum of £5. 5s. 6d. paid by the plaintiff to the defendant, and that the defendant accepted the note, for and on account of those sums; to this plea there was a general demurrer, and it was urged, that the plea ought to have alleged that the note was received in satisfaction of the debt; but the court, on argument, held the plea good, and advised the plaintiff to withdraw his demurrer and reply, which he did.

³ *Dangerfield v. Wilby*, 4 *Esp. Ni. Pri. Ca.* 159. The declaration contained a count upon a note made by the defendant, payable to the

when the bill was received in satisfaction from a third person, and the original debtor, the defendant, was no party to it to prove the due presentment for acceptance or payment and the dishonour, without shewing that he gave notice thereof to the drawer of such bill, unless the defendant can prove that he sustained some actual loss for want of such notice¹; and if the defendant admit the refusal of the drawee to accept the bill, although he request the creditor to present it again for acceptance, this will be unnecessary, and the creditor may recover his original demand without further proof of the dishonour of the bill². We shall hereafter see that in general when the holder has been guilty of *neglect*, either in presenting a bill for acceptance, when necessary, or for payment, or in giving notice of non-acceptance, or of non-payment, or by giving time to the acceptor, this conduct will render the original delivery of the bill equivalent to a payment of the debt, and discharge such debtor from all liability³.

Effect of delivery of bill to payee.

In general when the bill is dishonoured, and the holder uses due diligence, not only the parties to the bill are liable to be sued thereon, but the first liability on the original consideration revives⁴. Therefore where A. sold

plaintiff, and the money counts. At the trial the note was stated to be lost, but no evidence of the fact was offered. It was proved however, that on the money being demanded, the defendant had apologized for not having paid the money on account of the note. This was the whole of the plaintiff's case, and he contended that the note was only evidence of the consideration (which was stated to have been money lent) and that he might abandon the note, and go for the consideration. But Lord Ellenborough said, that as the note for any thing that appeared in evidence was in existence it might be still in circulation, so that the defendant might be subjected twice to the payment of the same demand, without therefore proving the note lost, the plaintiff was not entitled to recover. Nonsuit.

¹ Bishop v. Rowe, 3 M. & S. 362.—Post; but see Bridges v. Berry, 3 Taunt. 130.

² Hickling v. Hardy, 7 Taunt. 312.

³ 4 Ann. c. 9. s. 7.—Smith v. Wilson, Andr. 187.—Chamberlain v. Delarive, 2 Wils. 353.—Ward v. Evans, 2 Ld. Raym. 930.

⁴ Smith v. Wilson, Andr. 187.—Popley v. Ashley, 6 Mod. 147.—Ward v. Evans, 2 Ld. Raym. 928.—Hickling v. Hardey, 7 Taunt. 312. Bishop v. Rowe, 3 M. & S. 362.—Tempest v. Ord, 1 Mad. 89.—Tempest and others v. Ord and others, 1 Mad. Ch. Rep. 89. The manager of a colliery paying a creditor on the colliery with a bill

Effect of delivery
of bill to payee.

goods to B. for which the latter was to pay in a bill at three months, and B. gave A. a check on his bankers, (who were also bankers of A. requiring them to pay A. on demand in a bill at three months, and A. paid the check into the bankers and took no bill from them, *but the amount was transferred in the banker's books from B.'s account to A.'s with the knowledge of both,* and the bankers failed before the check became due, it was holden that A. could not recover the value of the goods against B., as A. instead of taking bills from his bankers, agreed to leave the check with them, it was as if he had discounted it with them and then deposited the money¹; but where the amount was not so transferred to A.'s account, it was holden that B. was still liable for the goods². And where A., wishing

which was not paid, the colliery remains liable to the payment of the original debt. Per the Vice Chancellor: The justice of the case, independent of authorities, is clear. Crowther has supplied goods, and received a bill, which turns out to be mere waste-paper, and ought not therefore to be considered as a payment. Where a bill of exchange is given in payment of a debt, and the bill is not paid, the creditor, unless he has purchased the bill out and out, has a right to resort to his original cause of action. So, if before a bill becomes due, it is dishonoured, the creditor may resort to his original debt.

Ward v. Evans, *Ld. Raym.* 928. A banker's note was paid to plaintiff's servant at noon, and presented for payment the next morning, at which time the banker stopped payment. On a case reserved, the court held it was presented in time, and judgment was given for the plaintiff on the original consideration.

Puckford v. Maxwell, 6 T. R. 52. The defendant having been arrested by the plaintiff for £80. gave a draft for £45, and promised in a few days to settle the remainder, on which the plaintiff consented to his being discharged out of custody. The draft was dishonoured, and the defendant was again arrested upon the same affidavit. On a rule to shew cause why he should not be discharged out of custody, it was urged, that the draft having been accepted as part payment, could not be treated as a nullity. But per Lord Kenyon, in cases of this kind, if the bill which is given in payment, do not turn out to be productive, it is not that which it purports to be, and which the party receiving it expects it to be, and therefore he may consider it as a nullity, and act as if no such bill had been given. These questions have frequently arisen at nisi prius, where they have always been determined in the same way. Rule discharged.

¹ *Bolton v. Richard*, 6 T. R. 139.—*Vernon v. Boverie*, 2 Show. 296. *Ex parte Blackburne*, 10 Ves. jun. 204. 6.

² *Brown v. Kewley*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 518.

Ex parte Dickson, in the matter of *Parker*, a bankrupt, cited 6 T. R. 142. *Dickson* sold sugars to *Parker*, for which the latter was to pay him in one month by a good bill at two months. *Parker* gave *Dickson* a check on his bankers at Liverpool, requesting them to pay him

to send goods to B. at X., employed C. to carry and deliver them to B. and engaged to pay C. for the freight, and C., on delivering them according to the order, took a bill of exchange from B. drawn on A. which bill was never paid, it was holden that A. was liable to pay the amount of the freight to C. notwithstanding the bill of exchange¹. And where a person, in payment of goods, gives an order on his banker to pay the amount in bills, and the vendor takes bills for the amount, he will not lose his remedy against his original debtor, unless he be guilty of laches².

Effect of delivery
of bill to payee.

In *Ex parte Blackburne*³, the Chancellor said, "I take it to be now clearly settled, that if there is an antecedent debt, and a bill is taken, without taking an indorsement, which bill turns out to be bad, the demand for the antecedent debt may be resorted to. It has been held, that if there is no antecedent debt, and A. carries a bill to B. to be discounted, and B. does not take A.'s name upon the bill, if it is dishonored there is no demand; for there was no relation between the parties, except that transaction; and the circumstance

in a bill at three months, the Liverpool bankers drew upon his agents in London, in favour of Dickson for the amount, but before the last bill became due, Parker and the banker became bankrupt. The Chancellor ordered that Dickson should prove the bill under the commission against the bankers and their agents, and claim the rest under Parker's commission.

¹ *Tapley v. Martens*, 8 T. R. 451. This was an action of debt on charter-party from London to Ancona. Plaintiff delivered his cargo to the consignor of defendant, and applied to him for the payment of the freight. Plaintiff took a bill of exchange drawn by the consignee on defendant, which was not paid, in consequence of the consignee becoming insolvent. It was urged on the part of the defendant, that the plaintiff had given personal credit to the consignee by taking the bill in question, the defendant having furnished the consignee with money for that purpose. The court held, that the plaintiff neither having taken the bill for his accommodation, nor having been guilty of any laches in enforcing the payment, that the bill could not be considered as payment of the plaintiff's demand, and that the defendant was liable for the amount under the charter-party. See also *Wyatt v. Hertford*, 3 East. 147.—*Marsh v. Pedder and others*, 4 Campb. 257. 1 Holt C. N. P. 72.—*Everett v. Collins*, 2 Campb. 515. S. P.

² *Ex parte Dixon*, cited in 6 T. R. 142, 3.—*Ante*, 128.—*Ex parte Blackburne*, 10 Ves. jun. 204. acc.—*Bolton v. Reichard*, 1 Esp. Rep. 106. *semb. contra*.

³ 10 Ves. jun. 206.

Effect of delivery
of bill to payee.

of not taking the name upon the bill, is evidence of a purchase of it. In a sale of goods, the law implies a contract that those goods shall be paid for. It is competent to the party to agree that the payment shall be by a particular bill. In this instance it would be extremely difficult to persuade a jury under the direction of a judge, to say, "an agreement to pay by bills was satisfied by giving bills, whether good or bad."

Effect of the al-
teration of a bill,
&c.

If a bill of exchange or promissory note be *altered*, without the consent of the parties, in any *material* part, as in the date, sum, or time when payable, such alteration will, at *common law*, and independently of the stamp acts, render the bill or note wholly invalid, as against any party not consenting to such alteration; and this although it be in the hands of an innocent holder. Thus, an alteration in the date of a bill of exchange after it has been accepted and indorsed, without the acceptor's or indorser's consent, will discharge them from liability, even though such alteration were made by a stranger¹; and where an alteration is made with a fraudulent intent, it will amount to forgery²; and if there be no privity between the

¹ Master v. Miller, 4 T. R. 320.—5 T. R. 367.—2 Hen. Bla. 141. Anstr. 225. S. C.—Com. Dig. Fait. F. 1.—Powell v. Divett, 15 East. 29.

Master v. Miller, 4 T. R. 320. 2 Hen. Bla. 141. S. C. In an action by indorsees against the acceptor of a bill payable three months after date, to Wilkinson and Cooke, the declaration had one count on the bill, as dated the 20th of March, and another as dated the 26th March. The jury found a special verdict, stating that the bill was drawn and dated the 26th, that it was accepted, and that afterwards and whilst it remained in the hands of Wilkinson and Cooke, the date was altered from the 26th to the 20th March, without the defendant's knowledge, and by some person unknown to the jury. That after such alteration it was indorsed for a valuable consideration by Wilkinson and Cooke to the plaintiffs. After two arguments, Lord Kenyon, Ashurst, and Grose, Justices, held, that the alteration although by a stranger, vacated the bill. Buller, J. differed, but on error, the whole court was so clear that it was vacated, that they would not hear a second argument, and judgment for the defendant was affirmed. See Henfree v. Bromley, 6 East. Rep. 309.

² The King v. Treble, 2 Taunt. 329. This was an indictment against the defendant for forgery, with intent to defraud Messrs. Kelliway. It appeared that Messrs. Kelliway, who were bankers in the country, made their re-issuable notes payable at Sir M. Bloxam and

holder and the party sued, the former cannot recover even for the consideration of the bill¹.

Effect of the alteration of a bill, &c.

But if an alteration be made in any part of a bill, which is *not material*, or be made merely for the purpose of *correcting a mistake*, and in furtherance of the *original* intention of the parties, such alteration, though made after the bill is complete, will not invalidate it, either with regard to the stamp-laws or otherwise. Thus, if after a bill has been accepted generally, the acceptor write upon it the place where he wishes it to be presented for payment when due, such addition will not render the bill void². So the

Co. bankers, London; upon the failure of Bloxam and Co. Messrs. K. appointed Messrs. Ramsbottom and Co. their agents, and caused the words "Ramsbottom and Co." to be engraved on small slips of paper, with which they covered the words Sir M. Bloxam and Co. and fastened them on their notes with gum-water. It also appeared that a parcel of notes which had been sent by Messrs. Bloxam and Co. to Messrs. K. by the coach, had been stolen, and that the defendant had caused similar slips of paper to be pasted over divers of the stolen notes, containing the words "Ramsbottom and Co." and negotiated them, but it did not appear that either Messrs. Ramsbottom and Co. or Messrs. K. had paid any of the notes so altered. It was objected for the defendant, this alteration did not amount to forgery, and the prisoner was respited until the opinion of the twelve judges could be had. After argument, the judges were of opinion, that the act done by the prisoner was a false making in a circumstance material to the value of the note, and its facility of transfer, by making it payable at a solvent instead of an insolvent house, and see 4 Bla. Com. 247, 249. Master and Miller, 4 T. R. 325. 330.

¹ Long v. Moore, sittings after Hil. Term. 1790. cited 3 Esp. 155. in notes. Assumpsit by the indorsee of a bill against an acceptor; after the acceptance, the word, "date" was inserted in the place of "sight", in which form it had originally been drawn. The acceptor being thereby discharged, the plaintiff wanted to go on the common counts, and offered in evidence another bill, drawn by the same drawer on the defendant, for the same amount, but not accepted. Lord Kenyon ruled, that it could not be done; nor could the plaintiff recover at all against the acceptor (the defendant) for he was liable only by virtue of the instrument; which being vitiated, his liability was at an end.

² Trapp v. Spearman, 3 Esp. Rep. 57. In an action on a bill by an indorsee against the acceptor, the defence was, that the bill had been altered by the insertion of the words "when due, at the Cross Keys, Blackfriars Road." But Lord Kenyon said, that the alteration was immaterial, and the plaintiff had a verdict.

Marson v. Petit, 1 Campb. 82. Indorsee against the acceptor of a bill, after acceptance, the drawer without the consent of the defendant, wrote under his name the words "Prescott and Co." Lord Ellenborough held it immaterial, as it did not alter the responsibility of the acceptor. See observations on this case in Tidmarsh v. Grover, 1 M. & S. 735. and French v. Nicholson, 1 Marsh. 72.

Effect of the alteration of a bill, &c.

insertion of the words "or order" in a note intended to be negotiable, but which had been omitted by mistake, will not render it inoperative against any of the parties¹. So where a person who was indebted to another, had agreed to give him a bill of exchange in payment, which was to be drawn by him and accepted by a third person, sent a promissory note drawn by himself and indorsed by the person who was to have been the acceptor, it was held that such promissory note might, before it is circulated, be altered into a bill of exchange, according to the original agreement of the parties, such alteration being considered as a mere correction of a mistake².

¹ *Kershaw v. Cox*, 3 Esp. 246, recognized in *Knill v. Williams*, 10 East. 435, 7. and 12 East. 475, and *Bathe v. Taylor*, 15 East. 417, and see *Robinson v. Tourays*, 1 M. & S. 217. In an action on a bill it appeared, that the defendant, who was the payee, had indorsed the bill to one K. by whom it was indorsed to the plaintiffs; that they, on discovering the words "or order" had been omitted, returned it the day after it was drawn, and the drawer, with the consent of the defendant, then inserted those words. *Le Blanc, J.* held, that no new stamp was necessary, that this was not a new instrument, as in *Bowman v. Nicholl*, but merely a correction of a mistake, and in furtherance of the original intention of the parties, and the plaintiff had a verdict. A new trial was afterwards moved for, but the court refused a rule. In *Knill v. Williams*, 10 East. 437. *Le Blanc, J.* said, that *Kershaw v. Cox*, could only be supported on the ground that the alteration was merely the correction of a mistake, for the alteration was a very material one. And see *Coles v. Parkin*, 12 East. 471.

² *Webber v. Robert Maddocks*, 5 Campb. 1. Indorsee against the acceptor of a bill of exchange. It appeared that Samuel and Robert Maddocks, being indebted to the plaintiff in the sum of £110, they agreed to give him a bill of exchange at four months for this amount, to be drawn by Samuel and accepted by Robert. Instead of a bill of exchange they sent him a promissory note in the following form:

London, 10th December, 1810.

Four months after date, I promise to pay to my own order, one hundred and ten pounds, value received.

S. Maddocks.

Indorsed, *L. Maddocks.*

R. Maddocks.

The plaintiff was dissatisfied with the security in this form, and returned it, that it might be altered into a bill of exchange, according to the agreement. The words "I promise to" were immediately struck out, a direction to *R. Maddocks* was subjoined, and he wrote his name as acceptor of the bill. It was then delivered back to the plaintiff.

For the defendant it was insisted that the instrument was completely vitiated by this alteration.

Lord Ellenborough. I think the stamp impressed upon this paper is sufficient to render the instrument available in its present form. It cannot be considered as having been negotiated as a promissory note. It never was issued to third persons. It remained in the hands and

Where, however, the drawer of a bill of exchange, which was accepted payable at the house of a banker, who had become insolvent, erased the name of that banker, and substituted the name of a solvent banker, without the consent of the acceptor, such alteration was considered so material, as at common law to invalidate the bill as against him, though in the hands of an indorsee for a valuable consideration, who was ignorant of the circumstances, upon the ground that it caused the bill to carry with it the appearance of solvency, by being directed to a solvent house instead of an insolvent one, and thereby held out a false colour to the holder, and likewise varied the contract of the acceptor by superadding an order upon another house to pay the bill¹.

Effect of the alteration of a bill, &c.

Any material alteration made in a bill of exchange or promissory note after it has been once perfected, even with the consent of the parties, except in the before-mentioned cases will render it absolutely void, it having been enacted, that there shall be no alteration in a stamped instrument after it has been used for one purpose²; and every alteration of a bill or note after it is once complete, is considered as a fresh drawing or making, and the circumstance of the bill or note not having been negotiated, will not afford any exception³. And even where a bill which had been ac-

under the dominion of the original parties. Every thing continued in *ferri* till after the alteration. The stamp was not occupied till then. Webber instantly rejected it as a promissory note. The alteration only fulfilled the terms of the agreement, and may be treated as the correction of a mistake. The plaintiff recovered.

¹ *Tidmarsh v. Grover*, 1 M. & S. 735. and *Rex v. Treble*, ante, 130. n. 2.

² See 1 Ann. stat. 2. c. 22. s. 2 and 3. to which the subsequent acts refer; per *Le Blanc, J.* in *Bathe v. Taylor*, 15 East. 416.

³ *Bowman v. Nicholl*, 5 T. R. 537. A bill was dated 2d September, and payable twenty-one days after date; while it was in the hands of the drawer, it was altered with the consent of the acceptor to fifty-one days; on the 30th September it was again altered to twenty-one days; but the date was brought forward to 14th September, after which it was negotiated, and an action brought against the acceptor. Lord Kenyon said, that every alteration in an instrument requiring a stamp, made a new stamp necessary, and nonsuited the plaintiff. Upon a rule nisi for a new trial, it was urged that there was a distinction between an alteration made after the negotiation of a bill, and an alteration made before, and in the latter case, the whole might be

Effect of the alteration of a bill, &c.

cepted for the accommodation of the drawer, was altered by him as to the time of payment, with the consent of the acceptor, and before it was actually negotiated, such alteration was held to render the bill absolutely void¹.

So where the date of a bill of exchange was altered by the payee at the request of the acceptor, such alteration was considered to render the bill wholly void, and to preclude the payee from maintaining any action thereon even against such acceptor². And if a bill be altered in the date by the drawee after it is drawn and indorsed, but before it is accepted, such alteration will invalidate the bill, and discharge the drawer and indorsers from liability, though it be in the hands of a *bonâ fide* holder, who is ignorant of the circumstances³. And after a promissory note has

considered as one transaction, but the court said, that as the operation of the bill as it originally stood was quite spent when the last alteration was made, that alteration made it a new and distinct transaction between the parties, and therefore there should have been a new stamp, and the nonsuit was confirmed.

Bathe v. Taylor, 15 East. 412. It was held, that a bill drawn on the 1st of August at two months, by A. on B. payable to the order of the drawer, and accepted and re-delivered by B. as a security for a debt, and kept by A. for twenty days, could not be altered in its legal effect by bringing forward the date to the 21st, without a new stamp, though with the consent of the acceptor, and before indorsement and delivery to a third person.

¹ *Calvert v. Roberts*, 3 Campb. 343.—*Bathe v. Taylor*, 15 East. 412. See also *Prince v. Nicholson*, 1 Marsh. 72, n. (c.)

² *Walton v. Hastings*, 4 Campb. 223.—1 Stark. 215. S. C. Payee against the acceptor of a bill of exchange. The bill was drawn by one Brooks on the defendant, payable to the order of the plaintiff, dated 5th July.; when the bill was presented for acceptance, defendant requested that the date on the bill might be altered to the 10th, to which plaintiff agreed, but did not inform Brooks. The plaintiff contended, that as the alteration was made before acceptance, the defendant was liable as acceptor, although the drawer might be discharged. Lord Ellenborough: Upon the stamp laws, I think the bill is void. It was an existing valid instrument before the alteration. It was negotiated when delivered by Brooks to the plaintiff. The plaintiff as payee had acquired an absolute interest in it, and might have maintained an action upon it against the drawer. It did not remain in *fieri* till the acceptance. As to the drawer, it was before then a perfect instrument, nor was there any mistake to be rectified. When drawn on the 5th of July, it corresponded with the intentions both of the drawer and payee. Here, when the date was altered, a new bill was drawn, and that could not be done without a new stamp.

³ *Outhwaite and another v. Huntley*, 4 Campb. 179. Indorsee against the indorser of a bill, payable to the order of the drawers.

been made by one person, the name of another cannot be added thereto as surety, unless by indorsement'. So also where A. and B. having exchanged their acceptances, it was held that the delivery of the respective bills for acceptance, and the re-delivery of the same by the acceptors to the respective drawers, was a negotiation of the bills, and that such bills could not, after they had been so exchanged for valuable consideration (as the exchange of acceptances is) for twenty days, be post-dated, although during all that time each had remained in the hands of the original drawer². And even the subsequent insertion of the nature of the consideration of the bill will render it void³.

Effect of the alteration of a bill, &c.

It appeared that after the bill had been drawn and indorsed, it was left for acceptance with the drawees, who altered the date (from the 5th to the 15th March) without the consent of the drawers, and then accepted it. It was contended for the plaintiffs that this alteration did not vitiate the bill, for it was not perfect until acceptance. Lord Ellenborough said, that before acceptance the bill of exchange was a perfect instrument on which the drawers might have been sued; any material alteration of it in that state therefore, rendered it void. Besides, consent would not justify the alteration, with a view to the stamp laws after the bill had been negotiated.

¹ *Clark v. Blackstock*, 1 Holt C. N. P. 474. A promissory note signed by A. and subsequently by B. whilst in the hands of the payee as surety for A. unless such signature of B. is in virtue of a previous agreement at the time of making the note, it will be void without an additional stamp.

² *Cardwell v. Martin*, 9 East. 190.—1 Campb. 79. S. C. On the 3d of June, 1807, the defendant and Giles and Co. exchanged acceptances; on the 23d, before either of the bills had been passed away, they altered the dates to the 23d; the bills were payable at certain periods after date; Lord Ellenborough thought a new stamp necessary, and nonsuited the plaintiff, with liberty to move to set aside the nonsuit: on motion accordingly, the whole court thought that the exchange of acceptances was a negotiation of each bill, and that the subsequent alteration rendered a new stamp necessary.—Rule refused. Note.—Each bill was payable to the drawer's order, and the plaintiff was a bona fide indorsee.—9 East. 357.—6 East. 312.

³ *Knill v. Williams*, 10 East. 431. This was an action on a note by which, nine months after date, the defendant promised to pay the plaintiff or order £100 value received, *for the good-will of the lease and trade of Mr. F. Knill, deceased*. It appeared at the trial before Le Blanc, J. at Hereford, that the words in italics were added by the consent of both parties, on the day after the note had been signed and delivered to the plaintiff, without any new stamp being impressed upon it, upon this the plaintiff was nonsuited; and upon a rule nisi to set aside the nonsuit, the whole court held that the alteration was material, and therefore discharged the rule.

Effect of the alteration of a bill, &c.

But where the drawee of a bill of exchange payable at three months after date, requested the drawer that it might be altered to four months, to which the latter consented, and which was done whilst in his hands and before it was negotiated or accepted, it was held that such alteration did not invalidate the bill, it not having been a complete instrument prior to the alteration ¹.

If upon a bill being presented for acceptance, the payee alters it as to the time of payment, and accepts it so altered, he vacates the bill as against the drawer and indorsers; but if the holder acquiesces in such alteration and acceptance, it is a good bill as between him and the acceptor; and keeping the bill and presenting it for payment at the deferred period, is proof of such acquiescence; and the holder cannot afterwards maintain an action on the case against the acceptor, for thereby destroying the bill ². The effect of an alteration in the acceptance of a bill will be hereafter considered. It is proper to observe, that alterations and erasures will frequently give the transaction the appearance of fraud ³.

Liability of the drawer.

UPON delivery of the bill to the payee or indorsee the *liability of the drawer* becomes complete.—The act of drawing a bill, implies an undertaking from the drawer to the payee, and to every subsequent holder fairly entitled to the possession, that the person on

¹ Kennerly v. Nash, 1 Stark. 452.

² Paton v. Winter, 1 Taunt. 420.—See 6 East. 309. The drawee altered the time of payment of a bill from one month to two and accepted it; the holder kept it two months and then presented it for payment. The court held that this was an acquiescence in the alteration, and directed a nonsuit to be entered in an action on the case brought by the holder against the acceptor, for having mutilated the bill.

³ Singleton v. Butler, 2 Bos. & Pul. 283.

whom he draws is capable of binding himself by his acceptance; that he is to be found at the place where he is described to reside, if that description be mentioned in the bill; that if the bill be duly presented to him, he will accept in writing on the bill itself, according to its tenor; and that he will pay it when it becomes due if presented in proper time for that purpose. This engagement is in all its parts absolute and *irrevocable*, and therefore where *A.* in England drew a bill of exchange on *B.* in a foreign country, who, by the laws of that country was prohibited from paying it, although it was urged that the undertaking of the drawer did not extend to the case of a prohibition to accept or pay the bill, imposed by the law of a foreign country in which the drawee resided, yet it was ruled in an action against the drawer, that this was no defence, it not being necessary for the holder to inquire for what reason the bill was not paid¹. But if the payment or acceptance be prohibited by the law of *this* country, it is otherwise². The drawer will also be equally liable, whether he draw the bill

Liability of the
drawer.

¹ Mellish v. Simeon, 2 Hen. Bla. 378.—Poth. pl. 58.—Tooting v. Hubbard, 3 Bos. & Pul. 291.

Mellish v. Simeon, 2 Hen. Bla. 378. A bill drawn in London upon Paris, and negotiated through Holland; before it became due, the French government prohibited the payment of any bill drawn in England, in consequence of which, it was dishonoured and sent back through the different hands by which it had before been negotiated to London; the re-exchange between Paris and Holland raised the bill from £603. 19s. 10d. to £905. 13s. 9d. and the re-exchange between Holland and London, to £913. 4s. 3d. which the plaintiff, the payee, paid; and upon an action by him against the drawer, Eyre, C. J. left it to the jury, whether the defendant was liable for the re-exchange occasioned by returning the bill through Holland, and they found that he was. An application was made for a new trial, upon the ground that the defendant was not liable *for the re-exchange, because there was* no default in him, the payment being prohibited by the government of France. But the court held it immaterial why the bill was not paid; that as it was not paid, he was liable to all the consequences, of which the re-exchange was one, and the rule was refused.

² Pollard v. Herries, 3 Bos. & Pul. 340. Lord Alvanley, C. J. It cannot be disputed, that whatever be the nature of the contract into which a subject of this country enters, he is excused from the performance of it if the laws of his country interpose and forbid the performance.

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on his own account or as agent of a third person¹. And we have also seen, that a person signing his name on a blank paper stamped with a bill-stamp, will be liable to pay to a bonâ fide holder any sum inserted in the bill, and warranted by the stamp².

On failure of the performance of this engagement, the drawer of a bill will *immediately*, and before the time specified in the bill for payment, be liable to an action³, not only for the principal sum, but also in certain cases for interest, re-exchange, and costs, as a consequence of the bill not being honoured⁴. Besides this obligation to the payee and the holder, the drawer is also bound to indemnify the acceptor, if he accepted for his accommodation for any loss he may sustain in consequence of his acceptance⁵. These obligations, though absolute and irrevocable, may be discharged by the laches or neglect of the holder, or by other means which will be spoken of hereafter. If a bill be drawn abroad on a person in this country, and the latter refuse acceptance or payment, the drawer will, if discharged by the foreign law, be discharged in this country⁶. Where an annuity was

¹ *Le Feuvre v. Lloyd*, 5 Taunt. 749.—1 Marsh. 318. S. C.—Ante, 36, 7. note 4.

² *Usher and others v. Dauncey and others*, 4 Campb. 97.—Ante, 32, note 1. and 114, 5.

³ *Bright v. Purrier*, Bul. Ni. Pri. 269. A foreign bill payable 120 days after sight, was presented for acceptance, but acceptance being refused, the holder brought an action immediately against the drawer; the defendant objected that he was not liable till the expiration of the 120 days, and offered to call witnesses to prove that such was the custom of merchants; but Lord Mansfield said, the law was clearly otherwise, and refused to hear the evidence; so the plaintiff recovered.

Milford v. Meyor, Dougl. 54. Indorser against the drawer of a bill, which the drawee had refused to accept. On a rule to shew cause why the defendant should not be discharged, the ground stated was, that the bill was not due. Per curiam. It is settled that if a bill of exchange is not accepted, an action on the bill will lie immediately against the drawer, because his undertaking that the drawee shall give him credit, is not performed.

⁴ *Mellish v. Simeon*, 2 Hen. Bla. 379.—Ante, p. 137, n. 1.—Poth. pl. 62.

⁵ Poth. pl. 97, 8, 9.

⁶ *Cook v. Tower*, 1 Taunt. 372.—*Potter v. Brown*, 5 East. 131.

granted in consideration of a bill accepted, which was dishonoured by the acceptor, but paid by the drawer on notice, it was held that this was not such a non-payment of the bill as to vacate the annuity, though the bill was accepted for the accommodation of the drawer, who undertook to furnish assets, but neglected to do so.

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CHAPTER IV.

OF THE INDORSEMENT AND TRANSFER OF BILLS, &c.

THOUGH Inland Bills are frequently accepted before they are indorsed, yet as all bills may be transferred before acceptance, we will consider the points relative to the transfer of bills and notes in this chapter.

It has been already observed¹, that it is the transferrable quality of bills and notes which principally distinguishes them from other contracts, and that on account of this property, and of their utility in mercantile transactions, they have been peculiarly favoured by our courts. The following points relating to the *transfer* of bills are to be considered. *First*, What bills are transferrable. *Secondly*, By and to whom. *Thirdly*, At what time. *Fourthly*, The mode of transfer. *Fifthly*, Its nature, operation, and obligation, and how that obligation may be released or discharged. And *Lastly*, Of the consequences of the loss of a bill, note, or check, and what conduct the holder should thereupon pursue.

**I. What bills, &c.
are transferrable.**

With respect to bills payable to a certain person *or order*, or to the order of a certain person, no doubt seems ever to have been entertained respecting their negotiability; and though bills payable to *bearer*, or to a certain person or bearer, were formerly thought not to be negotiable, and considered as mere *choses* in action, upon a supposition that such instruments contained no authority to assign them, so as to enable the assignee to *demand* payment of the drawee²; yet it is

¹ Ante, 6, 7, 11.

² Horton v. Coggs, 3 Lev. 299.—Hodges v. Steward, 1 Salk. 125.—Nicholson v. Sedgwick, 1 Ld. Raym. 180.—Mod. Ent. 313.—Bills and notes are valid, though they do not contain any words, rendering them negotiable. Smith v. Kendall, 6 T. R. 124.—Ante, 85.

now completely settled¹, that the decisions tending to support this doctrine, and the reasoning on which they were founded, were equally erroneous. In short, it is now well established that bills, whether payable to order, or to bearer, are equally negotiable from hand to hand *ad infinitum*; and that the transfer vests in the assignee a right of action on the instrument assigned, sustainable in his own name".

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But in general, unless the words "or order," "or bearer," or some other words authorising the payee of a bill, or note, to assign it, be inserted therein, it cannot be transferred so as to give the assignee a right of action against any of the parties except the indorser himself², unless the negotiable words were omitted by mistake, and in which case they may be supplied³. It may however be collected from the cases relative to bills payable to fictitious persons⁴, that any words in the bill, or extraneous facts, from whence it can be inferred that the person making it, or any other party to it, intended it to be negotiable, will give it a transferrable quality against that person. And in all cases, though no words authorising a transfer be inserted in a bill or note, yet it will always have the same operation against the party making the transfer, as if he had power to assign⁵; for the act of indorsing

¹ Grant v. Vaughan, 3 Burr. 1516.—1 Bla. Rep. 485. S. C.—Hinton's Case, 2 Show. 235. Vaughan gave Bicknell a draft upon his banker, payable to Ship Fortune or bearer; the draft came to the hands of Grant, who sued Vaughan upon it. The defendant contended that the draft was a mere authority to receive the money, and not negotiable; and that point and another being left to the jury, they found for the defendant, but upon application for a new trial the court held that it was negotiable, and a new trial was granted, in which the plaintiff recovered. See also Miller v. Race, Burr. 452.

² Hill v. Lewis, 1 Salk. 132, 3.—Ante, 85.

³ Kershaw v. Cox, 3 Esp. Rep. 246.—Ante, 131, 2.

⁴ Minet v. Gibson, 3 T. R. 481.—1 Hen. Bla. 569. S. C.—Vide, ante, 83, 4, in notes.

⁵ Hill v. Lewis, 1 Salk. 132. Moor drew one note payable to the defendant, or his order, and another payable to him generally without any words to make it assignable; the defendant indorsed them to Zouch, and Zouch to the plaintiff; the first objection was, that the plaintiff had been guilty of laches, but the jury thought he had not, and it was then urged that the second note was not assignable; and

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a bill is equivalent to that of a new drawing¹; and a transfer by mere delivery, unless where it is otherwise agreed or understood from the nature of the transaction, imposes on the person making it an obligation to his immediate assignee, similar to that created by indorsement. East India certificates are not indorseable, so as to transfer the legal interest²; and it was held that East India bonds were not transferrable so as to pass the legal interest to the purchaser, but this has been altered by a late statute³. A doubt was once suggested, whether a check or draft on a banker were negotiable out of the bills of mortality⁴; but it is now settled, that this instrument is as negotiable as a bill of exchange⁵; and it seems, that a bill or note payable to bearer, may be transferred and declared on as indorsed⁶.

The law having in general already determined when a bill is assignable, and the mode by which the transfer is to be effected, it is the province of a court⁷, and not that of a jury, to decide on the negotiability of these instruments, unless in new cases where the law merchant is doubtful, when evidence of the custom may be received⁸.

Holt, C. J. agreed, that the indorsement of this note did not make him that drew it chargeable to the indorsee; for the words "*or to his order*," give authority to assign it by indorsement, but the indorsement of a note which has not these words is good, so as to make the indorser chargeable to the indorsee.

¹ *Id. ibid.*—*Smallwood v. Vernon*, Stra. 478.—*Balingnalls v. Gloster*, 3 East. 482.

² *Williamson v. Thomson*, 16 Ves. jun. 450.

³ *Glynn v. Baker*, 13 East. 509—51 Geo. 3. cap. 64.—As to a navy bill see *M^r Lieshe v. Ekins*, Say. 73. cited 13 East. 515. n. (a).

⁴ *Grant v. Vaughan*, 3 Burr. 1517.

⁵ *Boehm v. Stirling*, 7 T. R. 430.

⁶ *Waynan v. Bend*, 1 Campb. N. P. 175. In an action against the maker of a promissory note, payable to T. L. or bearer, the defendant averred an indorsement by T. L. and Lord Ellenborough held that the plaintiff having stated such indorsement though unnecessarily, was bound to prove it; and that the plaintiff could not recover on the money counts, as he was not an original party to the bill.

⁷ *Edie v. East India Company*, 2 Burr. 1224.—*Grant v. Vaughan*, 3 Burr. 1523, 8.

⁸ *Stone v. Rawlinson*, Willes, 561.—*Edie v. East India Company*, 2 Burr. 1216.—1 Bla. Rep. 295. S. C.—*Calvick v. Vickery*, Dougl. 653.

When a bill or note has been unduly obtained, the negotiation of it may be restrained by a court of equity¹: which has a peculiar jurisdiction, to prevent a party from being sued at law upon a security which has been improperly obtained, and to order it to be delivered up to be cancelled². But at law, except in the instance of a warrant of attorney, there is no jurisdiction to order the security to be vacated, and the contracting party must, at the risk of losing the evidence which might establish his defence, wait till the party who holds the security thinks fit to try the validity of the instrument in an action; and should he be nonsuited, he will still be at liberty to proceed *de novo* upon his security; but a court of equity will often decree instruments to be delivered up to be cancelled, although the objection to their validity might be taken advantage of at law, for fear that the evidence to impeach them may be lost, or a vexatious use made of them³. But as the party applying for relief seeks equity, he must observe it, and therefore the court, in affording relief, will compel him to pay

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¹ *Bromley v. Holland*, 7 Ves. jun. 20.—*Jervis v. White*, id. 413.—*Newman v. Milner*, 2 Ves. jun. 483.—*Hammersley v. Purling* 3 Ves. jun. 757.—*Berkeley v. Brymer*, 9 Ves. jun. 355.

² *Newland v. Milner*, 2 Ves. jun. 488. Plaintiff prayed a discovery, injunction, and delivery of a bill of exchange; upon the answers and evidence, the right being clear, the court refused an opportunity of trying it at law, and decreed an immediate delivery.—See also *Jervis v. White*, 7 Ves. jun. 413.

Sir Edward Smith v. Haytwell, Ambl. 66. Bill to be relieved against a promissory note given upon a marriage brokage agreement; on motion the defendant was restrained from parting with or assigning the note, till answer or further order.—See also 3 Bro. C. C. 477.—*Prac. Reg. Ch.* 233.

——— *v. Blackwood*, 3 Anstr. 851. An injunction was granted to prevent the negotiating a note obtained at play, upon affidavit before service of the subpoena.—See also *Newman v. Franco*, 2 Anstr. 519. *Andrews v. Berry*, 3 Anstr. 624.—*Newland on Contracts*, 491, 2, 3, 4.

Burrows v. Jemimo, 2 Eq. Ca. Abr. 525, pl. 7. Where the acceptance of a bill of exchange became void, by the law of a foreign country, and was vacated by a competent court there, a perpetual injunction was granted against proceedings here.

Berkeley v. Brymer, 9 Ves. jun. 355. Affidavits cannot be read in support of an injunction to restrain the negotiation of a bill; and from *Iveson v. Harris*, 7 Ves. jun. 257, it appears that an injunction is not binding upon a person not party in the cause.

³ *Id. ibid.* and see other cases in *Newland on Contracts*, 493, 4.

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what may be justly due, and will impose on him such equitable terms as the justice of the case may require¹.

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With respect to the persons who may transfer a bill, or note, whoever has the absolute property may assign it if payable to order². In general a valid transfer can only be made by the payee, or the person who is *legally* interested in the instrument or by his agent, and consequently an indorsement by a person of the same name is inoperative, (except against the party making it, and the subsequent indorsers) although the person entitled to transfer the instrument was not particularly described in it³. And we have seen that an indorsement by an *infant* payee will not pass any interest in the bill against himself, though the acceptor and subsequent indorsers will in general be liable⁴. The same rule applies to the right of transferring a bill made payable to bearer or to order, and

¹ Byne v. Vivian, 5 Ves. jun. 604.—Newland on Contracts, 494, 5. Fitzroy v. Gyllim, 1 T. R. 153.—Hindle v. O'Brien, 1 Taunt. 413.—Benfield v. Solomon, 9 Ves. jun. 84.

² Per curiam, in Stone v. Rawlinson, Barnes, 165.—Willes, 560. S. C.

³ Mead v. Young, 4 T. R. 28.—Gibson v. Minet, 1 Hen. Bla. 607. A bill payable to Henry Davis, or order, was sent by the post, and got into the hands of a wrong Henry Davis, who indorsed it to the plaintiff; there was no description of Henry Davis on the bill, in addition to his name, nor was any fraud imputable to the plaintiff. This was an action against the acceptor, and on his offering evidence to shew that the Henry Davis who indorsed the bill was not the person in whose favour it was drawn, Lord Kenyon was of opinion, that the evidence was inadmissible, and he retained that opinion after cause shewn against an application for a new trial, but Ashurst, Buller, and Grose, Justices, held, that unless the indorsement was made by the person to whom the bill was really payable, it was a forgery, and could confer no title, and that therefore it was competent for the defendant to shew, that the person who indorsed the bill was not the person in whose favour it was made, and a new trial was accordingly granted.

⁴ Ante, 26.—Taylor v. Croker, 4 Esp. Ni. Pri. Ca. 187. In an action against the acceptor of a bill, drawn by Eversfield and Jones, on the defendant, and payable to their own order, and indorsed by them to one S. and by him to the plaintiff; it appeared that both the drawers were infants at the time of drawing the bill, but Lord Ellenborough held, that though that might have been a good defence, had the action been brought against the drawers themselves, it was no defence in the present action. Verdict for the plaintiff, but quære if the infant afterwards dissent to his indorsement, whether such defective transfer of his interest in the bill would not defeat the plaintiff's claim.

indorsed in blank; if the person to whom it is assigned or pledged, knew at the time he became the holder, that the person making the transfer had no right to make it¹. If, however, the holder had no knowledge of that circumstance, and took the bill *bonâ fide*, either absolutely or as a pledge, such transfer will be as operative, and will convey the same rights, as if it had been made by a person authorized to make it; for it would be a great clog on the negotiability of bills and checks, if the holder were bound in every instance where there are no suspicious circumstances, to inquire into the right of the person making the transfer². Therefore if indorsed bills be delivered to a person for a particular purpose, and he negotiate them to a third person who does not know the trust, the latter will become beneficially entitled to the bills, however fraudulent the conduct of the agent³; and if A. deposit bills

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¹ *Roberts and others v. Eden*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 398. The plaintiffs were assignees of the indorsee of a promissory note, made by the defendant, payable to one Hunt or order, on demand for money borrowed, and who indorsed it over to the bankrupt. Hunt and the defendant afterwards settled accounts, but the promissory note was not mentioned, it was given in evidence that the note had passed several times between Hunt and the bankrupt, but upon one occasion, Hunt told him, that it must not be negotiated, as he should want it when he settled accounts with defendant. The jury upon the trial, found a verdict for the defendant, and upon a motion for a new trial, the court held, that the verdict was right, and that the evidence was decisive to shew that the note was not negotiated to the bankrupt, but only deposited with him as a pledge, and that it must remain in his hands subject to the same equity as if it were in the hands of the original payee.

² *Grant v. Vaughan*, Burr. 1516. The defendant gave a cash note upon his banker, to one Bicknell, payable to Ship Fortune, or bearer. Bicknell lost it, and the plaintiff afterwards took it *bonâ fide* in the course of trade, and paid a valuable consideration for it. The banker (in consequence of an order from the defendant) refused to pay it, upon which the plaintiff brought this action. Lord Mansfield left it to the jury to consider, first, whether the plaintiff came to the possession of the bill fairly and *bonâ fide*; and secondly, whether such draft was in fact and practice negotiable, and the jury found for the defendant; but upon an application for a new trial, and cause shewn, the court were of opinion, that the second point ought not to have been left to the jury, because it was clear that such drafts were negotiable, and if the jury thought the plaintiff took the note fairly and *bonâ fide*, of which there appeared to be no doubt, he was entitled to recover. A new trial was accordingly granted, in which the plaintiff recovered.

³ *Bolton v. Puller*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 539. Forbes and Gregory, traders in London, were also partners in the house of Caldwell and Co. in

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indorsed in blank with B. his banker, to be received when due, and the latter raise money upon them by pledging them with C. another banker, and afterwards become bankrupt, A. cannot maintain trover against C. for the bills¹; and the same doctrine extends to navy

Liverpool; Bolton dealt with Caldwell and Co. and they prevailed with the house in London to let him make his bills payable there; Bolton kept no account but with the house in Liverpool, and they kept the account with the house in London, and the payments on Bolton's bills, when made, were carried by the house in London to their account with the house in Liverpool, and by the house in Liverpool, to *their* account with Bolton. In February 1793, he accepted bills payable at the house in London, to the amount of £19,702, and to enable the Liverpool house to provide for their payment, he indorsed to them, (amongst other bills) a bill for £4000, and another for £398; these two bills they remitted generally with many others to Forbes and Gregory, to whom they were considerably indebted, but before the latter bill arrived, both houses became bankrupt. The acceptances were payable before the indorsed bills; Bolton was obliged to pay all his own acceptances, and the assignees of Forbes and Gregory having refused to deliver up these bills, he brought trover for them. A special verdict was found, and after two arguments, the court were unanimously of opinion, that the assignees were entitled to keep the bills; they admitted, that as Forbes and Gregory were partners in the Liverpool house, they were to be considered as privy to the fact that the bills had been indorsed to that house, to enable it to provide for Bolton's acceptances; but they held, that the application which had been made of these bills, was the very thing which Bolton intended, and that therefore the privity of the London house, in the agreement made between him and the house at Liverpool, could have no effect on the transaction which, *as between the two houses had undoubtedly changed the property in the bills*, that for the purposes of providing for Bolton's acceptances, the house at Liverpool was entitled to deal with the acceptances as it thought fit, and they had therefore a right to remit them to Forbes and Gregory; and as they were indebted to Forbes and Gregory, in more than the amount, the assignees of Forbes and Gregory were entitled to keep them. Judgment for the defendants. *Ramsbottom v. Cater*, 1 Stark. 228. See also Payley on Prin. and Ag. 154, 5.

¹ *Collins v. Martin*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 648.—2 Esp. 520. S. C. The plaintiffs sent bills indorsed in blank to Messrs. Nightingales, to receive the money upon them; they borrowed money of the defendants, and pledged these bills as a security; they afterwards became bankrupt, and the plaintiff brought trover for the bills, there being no evidence that the defendants knew under what circumstances the bills had been left with Messrs. N. or how the plaintiffs account (he being in cash) stood with them. Eyre, C. J. thought the action would not lie, and nonsuited the plaintiff. On a rule nisi to set aside the nonsuit, it was urged, that though the Messrs. N. might have negotiated the bills, they could not pledge them; but after consideration the court was unanimous, that they had the power of binding the plaintiff as well by pledging as negotiating the bills, of which they were enabled to hold themselves out to the world as the absolute owners.

See also *Bolton v. Puller*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 546, in which Eyre, C. J. said, "it is clear, that if indorsed bills are deposited with a banker, and they are by him negotiated to a third person, though the pur-

bills¹ and exchequer bills²; and though in general a factor cannot *pledge* the goods of his principal³, it is otherwise in the case of a bill.

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The fraudulent misapplication by bankers, brokers, and other agents, in pledging and misapplying the bills and other negotiable securities of their employers, not being cognizable by the criminal law⁴, the statute 52 Geo. 3. c. 63. was passed to prevent such embezzlement, by which it is enacted, "That if any person, with whom as banker, merchant, broker, attorney, or agent, of any description whatsoever, with whom any ordnance, debenture, exchequer, navy, victualling, or transport bill, *or other bill*, warrant, or *order for the payment of money*, state lottery ticket, or certificate, seaman's ticket, bank receipt for payment of any loan, India bond, or other bond, or any deed, *note*, or other security for money, or for any share or interest in any national stock or fund, of this or any other country, or in the stock or fund of any corporation, company, or society, established by act of parliament or royal charter, or any power of at-

pose for which they were deposited should be ever so cruelly disappointed, the original owner can have no claim to recover them in trover, against such third person."

Ex parte Pease and another, in the matter of Boldero and Co, 1 Rose, 238. in which the Lord Chancellor states the law to the same effect. See also Payley on Prin. and Ag. 154, 5.

¹ Goldsmyd and another v. Gaden and another, in Chan. 13th June, 1796, cited in Collins v. Martin, 1 Bos. & Pul. 649. The plaintiffs, who were brokers, advanced money on three navy bills, and a deposit of scrip, and though it afterwards appeared, that both navy bills and scrip were left by the defendant in the hands of the party depositing for a particular purpose, and were not his property, but the property of the defendants; yet, on a bill filed in equity, it was referred to the Master, to take an account of what was due to the plaintiffs, and an issue at law was refused by the Chancellor, who thought the question too clear to be disputed. See also as to navy bills, Jones v. Ryde, 1 Marsh. 157.

² Clayton's Case, 1 Meriv. 572 to 585. from which it also appears, that if one of several partners, bankers, improperly dispose of such bills, the firm will be liable for the amount.

³ Newsome v. Thornton, 6 East. 21. but see Roberts v. Eden, 1 Bos. & Pul. 398. This is now clearly settled in Martin v. Coles, 1 M. & S. 140. and Solly v. Rathbone, 2 M. & S. 298. See the distinctions in Payley on Prin. and Ag. 154, 5.

⁴ Walsh's Case, 4 Taunt. 258. 284. 2 Leach, 1054. S. C. See also Clayton's Case, 1 Meriv. 579.

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torney, for the sale or transfer of any such stock or fund, or any share or interest therein, or any plate, jewels, or other personal effects shall have been deposited, or shall be or remain for safe custody, or upon or for any special purpose, without any authority, either general, special, conditional, or discretionary, to sell, pledge, or transfer such debenture, &c. shall sell, negotiate, transfer, assign, pledge, embezzle, secrete, or in any manner apply to his own use or benefit, any such debenture, &c. in violation of good faith, and contrary to the special purpose for which the things hereinbefore mentioned, or any or either of them shall have been deposited, or shall have been or remained with, or in the hands of such person, with intent to defraud the owner of any such instrument or security, or the person depositing the same, or the owner of the stock or fund, share or interest to which such security or power of attorney shall relate, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and punished with transportation for any term not exceeding fourteen years, or undergo any other punishment, as the court in misdemeanors in general have discretion to inflict¹."

Where a bill or note has been made payable to, or indorsed to a *feme sole* who afterwards *marries*, or where it is made during the coverture, the right of transfer vests in her husband, he being by the marriage entitled to all her personal property². If a bill or note

¹ See this statute, post, Appendix. 3 Chitty on Crim. Law, 922, 3. and 985, 6.

² Ante, 25, 6. Conner v. Martin, 1 Stra. 516.—Sel. Ca. 96. S. C. Rawlinson v. Stone, 3 Wils. 5. — Miles v. Williams, 10 Mod. 245.—Hatchett v. Baddely, 2 Bla. Rep. 1081. — Caudell v. Shaw, 4 T. R. 361.—Lavie v. Phillips, 3 Burr. 1776.

Conner v. Martin, 1 Stra. 516. cited 3 Wils. 5. A bill was made payable to Susan Conner or order, while she was sole. She married, and during her coverture indorsed it to the plaintiff, and upon demurrer and argument, the court of Common Pleas held, that the *feme covert* could not assign the note because by the marriage, it became the sole and right property of her husband.

Miles v. Williams, 10 Mod. 245. Per Parker, C. J. If a note be payable to a *feme sole* or order, and she *marries*, her husband is the proper person to indorse it.

be made payable to a feme covert, it is in legal operation payable to the husband, and an effectual indorsement must in general be in his name¹. But we have seen, that if the husband permit his wife to act as his agent, or to carry on trade as a feme sole, his authority to indorse may be presumed; and if a promissory note is made payable to a married woman, and she indorse it for value in her own name, and the maker afterwards promises to pay it, in an action against him by the indorsee it will be presumed that the nominal payee had authority from her husband to indorse the note in that form, and the indorsement will be considered as vesting a legal title to the note in the plaintiff².

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If a man become a *bankrupt*, all his property in which he is *beneficially* interested, is vested by the assignment of the commissioners in the assignees, by relation to the act of bankruptcy, so as to defeat all intermediate acts done by him to dispose of his property, and consequently the right of transfer of a bill or note, is in general vested in them from the time of the act of bankruptcy³; and the defect of title in the indorsee may be taken advantage of under the plea of non-assumpsit⁴; and after a secret act of bankruptcy committed by one of two co-partners, he cannot by an indorsement in the name of the firm, transfer negotiable securities which existed before the act of bankruptcy, unless under the circumstances presently mentioned⁵; and it has been doubted, whether the solvent partner can in such case, without the concurrence of the assignees of the bankrupt, indorse the bill⁶; and at least a

¹ *Barlow v. Bishop*, 1 East. 432. — 3 Esp. Rep. 266. S. C.—Ante, 25, 6. n. 4.

² *Coates v. Davis*, 1 Campb. 485.—Ante, 26. n. 1.

³ *Pinkerton v. Marshall*, 2 Hen. Bla. 335. — *Thomason v. Frere*, 10 East. 418.—*Ramsbottom v. Lewis*, 1 Campb. 279.—Ante, 46. and notes.

⁴ *Pinkerton v. Adams*, 2 Esp. Rep. 611. admitted in *Arden v. Watkins*, 3 East. 322.

⁵ Ante, 46.—*Thomason v. Frere*, 10 East. 418.

⁶ *Abel v. Sutton*, 3 Esp. 107, 8.—*Ramsbottom v. Lewis*, 1 Campb. 299.—*Ramsbottom v. Cater*, 1 Stark. 288. From *Abel v. Sutton*, it

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declaration upon such an indorsement, should not state that the bankrupt joined in the indorsement¹. But it has been adjudged, that if a trader deliver a bill for a valuable consideration to another, previously to an act of bankruptcy, and forget to indorse, he may indorse it after his bankruptcy²; and if he and his assignees refuse, they may be compelled to do so by petition to the Chancellor, who will, in such case, order the costs of the petition to be paid out of the estate of the bankrupt³. And as in general property, in which

should seem, that after the act of bankruptcy of one of several partners, and the commission issued against him, the property in a bill can only be transferred by the respective indorsements of the assignees, and the solvent partner. Lord Kenyon there says, If a fair bill existed at the time of the partnership, but is not put into circulation till after the dissolution, all the partners must join to make it negotiable; the moment the partnership ceases, the partners are tenants in common of the partnership property undisposed of from that period; and if they send any securities which belonged to the partnership, into the world after such dissolution, all must join in doing so. See observations, 1 Campb. 281. n. (b).

In *Ramsbottom v. Lewis*, 1 Campb. 279. the declaration stated, that both partners drew and indorsed the bill, although one of the partners was then a bankrupt, and Lord Ellenborough held, that under such declaration, the indorsee could not recover. His lordship said the declaration states that both parties drew and indorsed the bill, but upon this last supposition at the time of the indorsement, one partner had no longer any interest in it, and was incapable of exercising any act of ownership over it; the partnership had in fact then ceased to exist, and the solvent partner was to be considered as tenant in common of the bill along with the assignees of the other. However, in general, a transfer of partnership property made by the solvent member of a firm, after an act of bankruptcy committed by his partner, cannot be invalidated, 12 Mod. 246.—*Fox v. Hanbury*, Cowp. 448.—*Smith v. Oriel*, 1 East. 369.—*Smith v. Stokes*, 1 East. 364.—1 Mont. on Part. 154.

¹ *Ramsbottom v. Lewis*, 1 Campb. 279. 281. note supra.

² *Smith v. Pickering*, Peake's Ca. 50.—*Anon.* 1 Campb. 492.—*Rollston v. Herbert*, 3 T. R. 411. and see also 1 Rose, 14. note (a).

Smith v. Pickering, Peake Ca. 50. Richardson and Hill drew a bill upon the defendant, payable to their own order, which the defendant accepted; the drawers delivered this bill to the plaintiffs for a valuable consideration, but forgot to indorse it; they afterwards became bankrupts, and then indorsed it. The plaintiffs, as indorsees, now sued the defendant as acceptor; Lord Kenyon was clearly of opinion that the indorsement was good, and the plaintiffs had a verdict.

Anon. 1 Campb. 492, in notes. The bill was delivered to the indorsee, with the intent of transferring the property in it to him more than two months before the commission, but the indorsement was not in effect written upon it till within two months. Lord Ellenborough held, that the writing of the indorsement had reference to the delivery of the bill, and that the case was clearly within the statute.

³ *Ex parte Greening*, 13 Ves. jun. 206.—*Cullen*, 190. but see *ex parte Hall*, 1 Rose, 13, 14.

a bankrupt has no beneficial interest, does not pass to his assignees under the assignment, therefore where a bill has been accepted by another for his accommodation, he may, after an act of bankruptcy, indorse it, so as to convey a right of action thereon to a third person, against the accommodation acceptor¹. But if there were an exchange of acceptances or securities between the bankrupt and the accommodation acceptor, then the bill would be considered as accepted for value, and the indorsement after the act of bankruptcy would be invalid². And where a trader having securities in his banker's hands to a certain amount, after a secret act of bankruptcy, drew on them a bill for a larger amount for his accommodation, payable to his own order, which, after acceptance, he indorsed to the plaintiff, (who knew of his partial insolvency, but not of the act of bankruptcy) and a commission of bankrupt having been afterwards taken out, it was held that the plaintiff, who was to make title through the bankrupt's indorsement, after his bankruptcy, though he were entitled to sue the acceptors upon the bill, yet could only recover on it the amount of the sum accepted for the accommodation of the bankrupt, over and above the amount of the bankrupt's effects in the hands of the acceptors at the time

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¹ Arden v. Watkins, 3 East. 317.—Wallace v. Hardacre, 1 Campb. 46 and 47. and Ramsbottom v. Cater, 1 Stark. 288.

Arden v. Watkins, 3 East. 317. On the 5th October, 1801, Lewis Jones committed an act of bankruptcy, on which a commission issued on 31st December, 1801. On the 4th December, 1801, he drew a bill on Watkins for £100, payable to his own order, and indorsed it to the plaintiff, who paid him full value; Watkins owed Jones nothing, but accepted the bill to enable him to raise money upon it, and Jones deposited a lease with him, as an indemnity; the assignees insisted upon a restoration of the lease, and Watkins refused to pay the bill; action on the bill and reference. The arbitrator awarded against Watkins, but stated the facts specially to enable him to take the opinion of the court. After a rule nisi, to set aside the award, cause shown, and time taken to consider, the court was clear that the defendant was liable; that as Jones had no effects in Watkins's hands, no right to indorse devolved upon the assignees, and therefore his indorsement was effectual, and transferred the property to the plaintiff. Rule discharged.

² 1 Campb. 179. in notes.—Buckler v. Buttivant, 3 East. 72.

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of the bankruptcy; for which latter amount alone they were liable to account¹.

This rule of law invalidating transfers by a bankrupt after a secret act of bankruptcy, having been found extremely inconvenient to commerce, it was enacted by the 19 Geo. 2. c. 32. "That no person who is or shall be really and bonâ fide a creditor of any bankrupt, for or in respect of *goods* really and bonâ fide *sold* to such bankrupt, or for or in respect of any bill or *bills of exchange*, really and bonâ fide drawn, *negotiated*, or accepted, by such bankrupt, *in the usual or ordinary course of trade and dealing*, shall be liable to *refund or repay* to the assignee or assignees of such bankrupt's estate, any *money* which, *before the suing forth of such commission*, was really and bonâ fide, and in the usual and ordinary course of trade and dealing, received by such person of any such bankrupt, before such time as the person receiving the same shall know, understand, or have notice, that he is become a bankrupt, or that he is in insolvent circumstances."

¹ Willis v. Freeman and another, 12 East. 656. In an action by the indorsee, of the drawer of a bill against the acceptor, a verdict was found for the plaintiff, subject to the opinion of the court, upon a case, stating that Anderson, the drawer, being indebted to the plaintiff in more than £2000, and being insolvent, proposed to pay the plaintiff a composition of 13s. 6d. in the pound, together with the costs of an action which had been brought by the plaintiff against him, by a bill upon the defendants. This proposal being acceded to, Anderson applied to the defendants to accept a bill for £1400 *for his accommodation*. The defendants accepted the bill, drawn on the 5th of July, and payable on the 10th November, 1809, having in their hands effects of Anderson, to the amount of £888. 16s. 8d. Anderson had committed a secret act of bankruptcy on the 7th of March, 1809, upon which a commission issued on the 25th of July. The court of King's Bench held, that to the extent of £888. 16s. 8d. the defendants had a right to resist payment, on the ground of their being answerable for that amount to the assignees, to whom these funds devolved upon the act of bankruptcy; and that therefore the indorsement by Anderson to that extent, was inoperative; but as to the surplus (£511. 3s. 8d.) for which the acceptance was accommodation, the case of Arden v. Watkins was in point, to shew that the indorsement was valid. And they held that the law in this respect had not been altered by the 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. s. 8. And they therefore ordered the verdict to be entered for this reduced sum of £571. 3s. 4d.

It does not appear to be settled, whether promissory notes are within this statute¹. The act only protects *payments* of two descriptions of debts, viz. for *goods sold*, and *bills of exchange*; and it also requires that this payment shall be made in the *usual and ordinary* course of trade.² With respect to the

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¹ See *Harwood v. Lomas*, 11 East. 127.

² *Pinkerton v. Marshall*, 2 Hen. Bla. 234.—*Southey v. Butler*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 237.—*Vernon v. Hall*, 2 T. R. 648.—*Harwood v. Lomas*, 11 East. 127.—*Bagley v. Scholfield*, 1 M. & S. 338.

Pinkerton v. Marshall, 2 Hen. Bla. 334. A. having recovered a verdict for a certain sum of money against B, B. commits an act of bankruptcy; afterwards A. having had no notice of the bankruptcy, gives time to B, and instead of entering up judgment and suing out execution, takes a bill drawn by B. on C, at a distant period, for the amount of the sum recovered. This is not a payment protected by the stat. 19 Geo. 2. c. 32. A. therefore is liable to refund the money received on the bill to the assignees of B.

Southey v. Butler, 3 Bos. & Pul. 237. A trader, subsequent to an act of bankruptcy, being arrested and detained in prison at the suit of several creditors, sent for all his creditors but one, and paid their debts in full; but no other circumstance occurred from which it could be presumed that they knew of his bankruptcy or insolvency. Held that such payments were not protected by the stat. 19 Geo. 2. c. 32.

Vernon and another v. Hall, 2 T. R. 648. If the payee of a bill of exchange, received from a third person as the price of an estate, give time to the drawee, on condition that he shall allow interest, and afterwards the drawee discharge the bill, having in the meantime committed an act of bankruptcy, this is not such a payment in the ordinary course of trade as is protected by the 19 Geo. 2. c. 32. and the assignees may recover the money from the payee.

Harwood and another v. Lomas, 11 East. 127. Odell being indebted to the defendant in £400, gave him, in August 1805, his note for that sum, payable at twelve months, with interest half-yearly. Part only of the money being paid, the defendant, in 1806, arrested Odell for the residue; and in Hilary term 1807, obtained judgment, which was affirmed on error the 5th of February, 1808; and the next day (the 6th of February) Odell paid the amount of the damages, interest, and costs. Odell had committed an act of bankruptcy on the 27th of January, 1808, on which a commission issued, dated the 19th of February, 1808. In an action by his assignees to recover this money, the only question was, whether the payment by the bankrupt were protected by the 19 Geo. 2. c. 32. The court inclined to think that it was incumbent on the party receiving the money, to shew that the payment was protected by the statute: but it being admitted that the note had been given for the balance of an account stated, consisting (inter alia) of money lent to the bankrupt, the court, without expressing any opinion as to whether the statute could be construed to extend to notes, held that this note could not be said to have been given in the ordinary course of trade and dealing. Postea to the plaintiffs.

Bayly and others, assignees of Luckraft, bankrupt, against Schofield and another, 1 M. & S. 338. It was held that a creditor of the bankrupt, who had sued out a writ against him, and, without proceeding upon it, afterwards received from him a bill of exchange in part payment of his debt, after being apprised that there had been a meeting.

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term "payment" it has been decided, that if a trader, after he has committed a secret act of bankruptcy, indorse a bill of exchange to a creditor, who received the money due upon a bill, before a commission issues against the trader, such payment is protected by this statute¹. And if a bill of exchange were indorsed by a trader after a secret act of bankruptcy, in payment of a debt for *goods sold*, it should seem that such transfer would be valid with reference to the construction on the stat. 1 Jac. 1. c. 15. s. 14, although the bill be not paid until after the issuing of the commission, because the indorsement of a bill of exchange is deemed *a payment* in satisfaction, provided the bill be paid when due²; and therefore it should seem, that

of his creditors, and that the bankrupt's affairs at that time were only capable of paying the demands of his creditors by instalments, although he was assured by the bankrupt's agent that they would come round, was liable to refund the proceeds of such bill to the assignees of the bankrupt, as a payment not in the usual course of trade and before notice of his insolvency; and per Lord Ellenborough, "the next question and most important one is, whether the payment by Luckraft was a payment *bonâ fide*, and in the usual and ordinary course of trade, within the 19 Geo. 2. before such time as the defendants had notice that he was become bankrupt, or was in insolvent circumstances. It may be admitted that they did not know that he was a bankrupt; but how does the case stand with respect to their knowledge of his being in insolvent circumstances. By insolvent circumstances, is meant that a person is not in a condition to pay his debts in the ordinary course, as persons carrying on trade usually do. Looking at the letter of the 11th of October, which inclosed the bill, it emphatically shews him to have been in insolvent circumstances; it speaks of his being unable to muster a sufficient sum, and of his having been obliged to pay every one a little as it came to hand, can that payment then be said to be in the ordinary course when a man confesses he is obliged to pay by minute portions to each of his creditors; it is more like a distribution under a deed of composition than a payment by a trader appearing openly at his counter. I should say, this was not the mode in which a solvent man proceeds."

See the cases upon this part of the provision in the act, 1 Mont. 313, &c.

¹ *Hawkins v. Penfold*, 2 Ves. sen. 550. Per Lord Chancellor, There is no difference between an actual payment of money in satisfaction of a debt and indorsing bills of exchange, provided the money was received on them before the commission of bankruptcy issued, for I should take that only as a medium of payment and no more; and otherwise it would be very hard.—See also 1 Mont. 311. n. h.

² *Wilkins v. Casey*, 7 T. R. 711. A factor was indebted to his principal in £228. 18s. the principal committed an act of bankruptcy, and drew on his factor for £222. 18s. the factor did not know of the act of bankruptcy, and accepted the bills; before they came due a commission issued, notwithstanding which the factor paid them; then the assignees sued the factor for £222. 18s. and on a case reserved, insisted

although in general a partner who has committed a secret act of bankruptcy, cannot indorse a bill so as to affect the firm¹, yet if he were *bonâ fide*, and in the ordinary course of trade to indorse the bill in payment of a debt for goods sold, such indorsement would be valid under this statute.

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It has been recently decided, that the term *insolvent circumstances*, means that a person is not in condition to pay his debts, in the ordinary course, as persons carrying on trade usually do, for the object of the statute was to protect those persons only who receive money under circumstances not calculated to raise suspicion; but if any such circumstances occur, then they receive the money or bills at their peril, and are liable to refund; as where a bankrupt, before his transfer of bills, proposed to pay his creditors by instalments². But the insolvency mentioned in this and the stat. 46 Geo. 3. c. 135. means *a general* inability in the bankrupt to answer his engagements, and which is not to be inferred merely from his renewing bills of exchange in a particular instance³.

that though the stat. (1 Jac. 1. c. 15.) would protect a *payment* before notice of bankruptcy, it would not a mere acceptance. Sed per Lord Kenyon, C. J. the statute ought to receive a liberal construction; giving goods in exchange would have been a payment, though not in money, and so is giving an acceptance, if the bill be paid when due. The other judges concurred, and the defendant received judgment.

It appears from the case of *Bayly v. Schofield*, 1 M. & S. 338.—and ante, 154, 4, n. 2. that as the bill was given in payment for goods sold, the party might have retained the amount, although the transfer of the bill was made to him after the act of bankruptcy, if such transfer had been made in the ordinary course of trade and dealing.

¹ Ante, 46, 7.—In *Thomason v. Freere*, 10 East. 418.—and in *Willis v. Freeman*, 12 East. 656. the bills were not indorsed for goods sold, and in the last case Lord Ellenborough expressly alluded to the exceptions introduced by the statutes.

² Per Lord Ellenborough, Le Blanc, J. and Bailey, J. in *Bayly v. Schofield*, 1 M. & S. 350, 353, 354. See this case ante, 154, 4, n. 2.

³ Anon. 1 Campb. 492. in notes, sittings in Trin. Vac. 1808. Plaintiff declared as indorsee of a bill of exchange drawn by J. S. payable to his own order; the defence was, that J. S. had committed an act of bankruptcy before the indorsement; in answer to this the plaintiff relied upon Sir Samuel Romilly's act, 46 Geo. 3. c. 135. whereby it is enacted, "that all contracts and transactions by and with any bankrupt *bonâ fide*, made or entered into more than two calendar months before the date of the commission shall, notwithstanding any prior act of bankruptcy committed by such bankrupt, be good, provided the person so dealing with such bankrupt, had not at the time notice of any prior act of bankruptcy having been committed

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The 46 Geo. 3. c. 135. s. 1. contains a provision, giving effect to *all payments and contracts* *bonâ fide* entered into with the bankrupt, more than *two calendar months* before the date of the commission, though made after a secret act of bankruptcy, provided the party had not notice of the prior act of bankruptcy, or that the bankrupt was insolvent or had stopped payment. Under this statute it is clear, that any indorsement or transfer of a bill or note, made after a secret act of bankruptcy, upwards of two months before the date of the commission, will be valid, provided the party in whose favour it were made had no notice of such act of bankruptcy or general insolvency.

If a bill be indorsed by a bankrupt to a particular creditor, by way of *fraudulent preference*, even before an act of bankruptcy, it will be invalid. The rule upon this subject is, that if the preference is not the mere voluntary act of the party, but only consequential, as it is called, as where the act is done in the ordinary course of business, and upon the application of the creditor, or in pursuance of some prior agreement, which was not made in contemplation of bankruptcy, or were done to deliver the party from legal process, or from the threat and apprehension of it, or even from the pressure or importunity of the creditor, then it will not be void, though made the very moment before an act of bankruptcy committed. And where the preference is consequential merely, the creditors' or bankrupts' own knowledge or apprehension of his insolvency, is immaterial, that being frequently the very reason of the creditor's taking such measures

by such bankrupt, or that he was insolvent, or had stopped payment." It was contended on the part of the defendant, that the plaintiff, at the time when the indorsement was made, had notice that J. S. was insolvent. The fact was, that before then J. S. had renewed his bills with the plaintiff, and that the bill in question was given in exchange for others which J. S. could not satisfy when due. But Lord Ellenborough held, that the insolvency mentioned in the statute, must mean a *general* inability in the bankrupt to answer his engagements, which was not to be inferred from his renewing bills of exchange in a particular instance; and the plaintiff had a verdict. See ante, 153, 4, in notes.

against the bankrupt as are precisely the ground of justifying the act done by the bankrupt, in consequence of it¹. A trader cannot, in contemplation of bankruptcy, indorse a bill or note to his creditor, of his own accord, and without any application. But it is not sufficient to avoid the transaction, that the indorsement was made voluntarily, and that an act of bankruptcy ensues, it must also appear that he had the act of bankruptcy in contemplation at the time when the indorsement was made. Nor has it ever been held, that if a creditor press for payment of his debt, and thereby obtain a transfer of a bill or note to him, that the intention of the bankrupt shall be called in aid to set it aside. If it were transferred through the urgency of the demand, or through the fear of prosecution, whatever may have been in the contemplation of the bankrupt, this will not vitiate the proceeding. Nor will the transaction, if *bonâ fide*, and not colourable, be impeached by the secrecy adopted in the transaction by the trader, to save his own credit in the view of the world². And where a trader, in contemplation of bankruptcy, and without solicitation, put three checks into the hands of his clerk, to be delivered to a creditor at the counting-house of the latter, but before they were delivered, the creditor called at the trader's, and demanded payment of his debt, upon which the checks were delivered to him, it was held that the intention to give a voluntary preference not being consummated, the delivery of the checks was valid³.

So where a creditor obtained a preference in contemplation of an intended deed of composition, and which preference would have been void as against the creditors under that deed, yet as the composition went off, it was decided, that the creditor might hold his

¹ See the rule and cases upon this subject in *Smith v. Payne*, 6 T. R. 152.—*Hartshorn v. Slodder*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 589.—*Crosby v. Crouch*, 11 East. 256.—*Cullen*, 280, 1.

² *Crosby v. Crouch*, 11 East. 256.

³ *Bayley v. Ballard*, 1 Campb. 416.

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securities against the assignees under a commission of bankrupt subsequently issued, but not contemplated at the time of the preference¹.

So there are cases in which a trader in insolvent circumstances may return bills of exchange to the party from whom he has received them, though they would otherwise become the property of his assignees².

If a promissory note be given to an uncertificated bankrupt, *after the commission issued*, and the assignees require the maker to pay them, the right to the note is thereby vested in the assignees, and an action cannot be supported by the bankrupt³, unless indeed he acquired the note in respect of a contract made in his favour by the assignees or with their concurrence⁴.

In case of the bankruptcy of a banker, bills deposited with him as agent, to obtain payment, do not pass to the assignees, unless the banker has discounted them, or advanced money upon the credit of them, in which case the assignees acquire the entire property in them if discounted, or have a lien on them pro

¹ *Wheelwright v. Jackson*, 5 Taunt. 109. 633. S. C.

² *Graff and others, assignees, &c. v. Greffulke*, 1 Campb. 89. If a trader, on receiving bills of exchange from one of his creditors abroad, to whom he is indebted beyond the amount of them, after becoming insolvent, but before committing an act of bankruptcy delivers these bills with the consent of his other creditors, to an agent of the person who had remitted them for the use of the latter, if he should be ultimately entitled to them; this is a legal and valid transaction, and if a commission of bankrupt afterwards issue against the trader, his assignees cannot maintain an action against the trustee to recover the produce of the bills.

Gladstone v. Hadwen, 1 M. & S. 517. Where S. obtained bills of exchange from the defendant upon a fraudulent representation, that a security given by him to the defendant (which was void) was an ample security, and on the next day having resolved to stop payment, informed the defendant that he had repented of what he had done, and had sent express to stop the bills and would return them, and three days afterwards committed an act of bankruptcy, after which he returned to the defendant all the bills (except one which had been discounted) and also two bank notes, part of the proceeds of such discount; and the defendant delivered back the security, and afterwards a commission of bankruptcy issued against S. the assignees, under which commission, brought trover against the defendant for the bills and bank notes. Held that the defendant was entitled to retain them.

³ *Kitchen v. Bartsch*, 7 East. 53.—*Smith's Rep.* 58. S. C.

⁴ *Coles v. Barrow*, 4 Taunt. 754.—*Holt C. N. P.* 174.

tanto in case of a partial advance¹. But the effect of bankruptcy upon the property in bills, in the hands of the trader, will be more fully considered in the chapter relating to bankruptcy.

On the *death* of the holder, the right of transfer is vested in his *executor* or *administrator*². If the executor or administrator indorse the bill or note, without qualification, he would be personally liable in case the bill should be dishonoured³. Executors are not personally liable in case of the failure of a banker, in whose hands they have deposited bills, part of the estate⁴.

If a bill has been made or transferred to several persons not in *partnership*, the right of transfer is in all collectively, and not in any individually⁵; but where several persons are in partnership, the transfer may be made by the indorsement of one partner only, in which case the transfer is considered as made by all the persons entitled to make it⁶. And it has been held, that though such persons may not be in partnership, and only one has indorsed, yet that if the drawee accepted after the indorsement, he cannot dispute the

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¹ Per Lord Ellenborough, in *Giles v. Perkins*, 9 East. 14.—*Carstairs v. Bates*, 3 Campb. 301.; and see *Parr v. Eliason*, 1 East. 544. and cases there cited; and see 1 Bos. & Pul. 83, n. a.; and see 1 Mont. 354, 5, &c.

² *Rawlinson v. Stone*, 3 Wils. 1.—2 Stra. 1260.—*Barnes*, 164. S. C. A note was payable to A. B. or order; A. B. died intestate, and his administrator indorsed it to the plaintiff. These facts appearing upon the declaration, the defendant demurred, and contended that the personal representative of the payee had no power to indorse a note, but the Court of Common Pleas, after three arguments, and the Court of King's Bench, upon error brought, were unanimously of opinion that he had, and each court said it was every day's practice, and the constant usage for executors and administrators to indorse bills and notes payable to the order of their testators or intestates.

³ *King v. Thom*, 1 T. R. 487.—*Gibson v. Minet*, 1 Hen. Bla. 622.—Bayl. 62. The court held, that upon a bill payable to several as executors, they might sue as executors; and per Buller, J. no inconvenience can arise from their indorsing the bill; for if they indorse, they are liable personally, and not as executors; for their indorsement would not give an action against the effects of the testator.

⁴ *Rowth v. Howell*, 3 Ves. jun. 565, 6.—Ante, 37.

⁵ Bayl. 55.—*Carvick v. Vickery*, Dougl. 653. (n). ante, 49. and *Jones v. Radford*, 1 Campb. 83. and see *Williams v. Thomas*, 6 Esp. Rep. 18.—Ante, 46.—Sel. Ni. Pri. 4th ed. 337.

⁶ Ante, 39, 40.

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regularity of the latter¹. In general we have seen that one partner may, without the express concurrence of the other partners, make a valid transfer of a bill, even in fraud of his co-partners². In the case of a bill payable to *A. for the use of B.*, the right of transfer is only in *A.* because *B.* has only an equitable and not a legal interest³.

III. *The time when a transfer may be made.*

Indorsements of bills are most usually made after acceptance, and before payment; but though the term "transfer," like the term "acceptance," supposes a pre-existing bill, a transfer may be made previously to the bill being completed. Thus it has been adjudged, that if a man indorse his name on a blank stamped piece of paper, such an indorsement will operate as a *carte blanche*, or letter of credit, for an indefinite sum, consistent with the stamp, and will bind the indorser for any sum to be paid at any time, which the person to whom he intrusts the instrument chooses to insert in it⁴, and such paper shall be considered a bill by relation from the time of signing and indors-

¹ Jones and another v. Radford, 1 Campb. 83. cited in notes. Indorsee against acceptor of a bill of exchange, payable to two persons. The bill had been indorsed by one in the name of both, and the defendant had accepted it with the indorsement upon it. The defence was, that the payees not being partners, the bill ought to have been indorsed by both. Lord Ellenborough held, that the defendant having accepted the bill so indorsed, could not now dispute the regularity of the indorsement. Sed vide Smith v. Hunter, 1 T. R. 654.

² Swann v. Steele, 7 East. 210.—Ante, 40, in notes.—Ridley v. Taylor, 13 East. 175.—Ante, 44. n. 3.

³ Evans v. Cramlington, Carth. 5.—2 Vent. 307.—Skin. 264.—Company of Felt-makers v. Davis, 1 Bos. & Pul. 101. note c.—Smith v. Kendall, 6 T. R. 124.—Selw. Ni. Pri. 4th ed. 337. A bill was payable "to Price or order, for the use of Calvert." Price indorsed it to Evans, after which an extent issued against Calvert, and the money due upon it was seized to the use of the king. These facts appearing upon the pleadings, two points were made upon demurrer; the one whether Calvert had such an interest in the money as might be extended, the other whether Price had power to indorse the bill, or whether he had only a bare authority to receive the money for the use of Calvert; and the Court of King's Bench, and afterwards the Exchequer Chamber, held that Calvert had not such an interest as could be extended, and that Price had power to indorse the bill, and judgment was given for the plaintiff.

⁴ Russel v. Langstaff, Dougl. 514.—Newsome v. Thornton, 6 East. 21, 2.—Collis v. Emott, 1 Hen. Bla. 313. 316. 319.—Ante, 32. in notes.

ing¹. So when in an action brought by the indorsee of a post-dated bill, drawn by the defendant and indorsed by the payee before the day on which it bore date, and the payee died before such date, the defendant contended that the bill did not acquire the character of a negotiable bill, within the custom of merchants, till the time it bore date, and that the payee who indorsed it, having died before that time, such indorsement conveyed no title to the plaintiff, and that the defendant, as drawer, was not liable; upon a special case reserved, the Court of King's Bench were of opinion, that such indorsement before the date of the bill, was legal and valid, and that notwithstanding such death of the indorser, the plaintiff was entitled to recover². But there is an express provision in 17 Geo. 3. c. 30. s. 1. that bills and notes for the payment of a less sum than five pounds, shall not be indorsed before the date thereof³.

III. Time of transfer.

Although if a bill of exchange, payable at a certain time after date, be presented for acceptance and refused, and the holder thereof neglect to give due notice of such dishonour to the drawer or indorsers, they are discharged from liability to such holder, yet, if before the specified time of payment he indorse the

¹ Per curiam, in *Snaith v. Mingay*, 1 M. & S. 87.—*Cruchley v. Clarence*, 2 M. & S. 90.—1 Marsh. 29. and *Usher v. Dauncey and others*, 4 Campb. 98. See these cases in notes, ante 70, and 138.

² *Pasmore v. North*, 13 East. 517. The defendant, on the 4th of May, 1810, drew a bill for £200, on Brook and Co. dated the 11th of May, 1810, payable to Totty or order, 65 days after date. On the 5th of May, Totty indorsed this bill to the plaintiff for a valuable consideration, and on the same day died. After the 4th, and before the 11th of May, the defendant received effects of Totty's to the amount of about £130, to answer this bill. On the 12th of May, the defendant advised the drawees of the bill having been drawn, and of Totty's death, and desired them not to accept or pay the bill. Acceptance and payment were accordingly refused: and this action was brought against the drawer. A verdict was found for the plaintiff, subject to the opinion of the Court of King's Bench on a case reserved. The court, after adverting to the 17 Geo. 3. c. 30. as to bills for less than £5, and to the 48 Geo. 3. c. 149. as to post-dating drafts upon bankers, held clearly that the plaintiff was entitled to recover for the whole amount of the bill, and he had judgment accordingly.

³ See observations on this statute, in *Pasmore v. North*, 13 East. 517.

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bill to a party, ignorant of the laches, for valuable consideration, such indorsee will not be thereby affected, and may enforce payment from the drawer or prior indorser¹. But if such indorsee, at the *time he received the bill, knew of the dishonour*, or took the bill after it was due, he will be affected by such laches and will not be entitled to recover². So where the holder of

¹ O'Keefe v. Dunn, 1 Marsh. 613.—6 Taunt. 305, S. C. per Gibbs, C. J. Heath and Dallas, Js. dissentiente Chambre, J. The payee of a bill of exchange presented it for acceptance which was refused, but no notice of such dishonour was given to the drawer, and the payee afterwards indorsed over the bill, without notice to the indorsee of such refusal to accept, and the latter again presented the bill for acceptance, which was again refused. Held, that the indorsee might recover on the bill against the drawer, notwithstanding the laches of the payee, by three, against Chambre, J.—Per Gibbs, C. J. He who takes a bill after it has arrived at maturity, takes it subject to all the defences which could have been made by any previous holder, for the bill being unpaid its date is notice to him sufficient to put him on inquiry, but if he takes the bill before it is due, he takes it not subject to the same infirmity of title, because he then takes it without notice of any suspicious circumstances that may break in upon his remedy against any former holder. This is the general law, but there may be circumstances that may make it otherwise. A holder is not bound to present a bill for acceptance, there is nothing therefore on the face of an unaccepted bill to awaken a suspicion that it has been presented for acceptance and refused. But it is said, the general law is, that where notice is requisite, if notice be not given the drawer, and all persons claiming to be entitled to have notice of the dishonour, are discharged. I think that is a begging of the question; if a holder comes to the question that the drawer will not accept, or will not pay the bill when it becomes due, and omits to give notice, he shall never sue the drawer, because his neglect prevents the drawer from using diligence in withdrawing from the drawee the effects which were destined to satisfy the bill. But I am of opinion, that if the bill is passed for a valuable consideration, without notice of that defect of title, he who so innocently takes the bill is not guilty of any breach of duty towards the drawer, and is therefore not affected by the omission; Roscoe v. Hardy, 12 East. 434, is mainly distinguishable from the present case, in respect that the bill there continued up to the time of its maturity in the hands of a holder who had neglected to give that notice at the time when the bill was first refused acceptance; and the holder, I agree, had thereby, as to his own claim, discharged the drawer, I am of opinion that the circumstance of the bill continuing in the same hand, materially differs that case from the present. I therefore think that the present plaintiff not having had notice that the bill had been presented for acceptance and dishonoured, before she took it, is entitled to recover.

² Crossley v. Ham, 13 East. 498. The defendant, for the accommodation of Clark, indorsed two bills drawn by Clark, in America, upon Dickenson and Co. in London, for £450 each; in favour of the defendant, dated 10th of February, 1804, and payable 60 days after sight; these bills were paid over by Clark to Parry, in February 1804. The defendants Parry and Clark, then, and until after the 14th of

a bill, before it was due, having tendered it for acceptance, which was refused, kept it till due, when it was presented for payment and refused, and then returned to an indorser, who not knowing of the laches paid it; it was held that his ignorance of such laches when he paid the bill did not entitle him to recover, either against the drawer or prior indorsers, who had thus been discharged by the laches of the holder¹.

There is no legal objection to the validity of a transfer of a bill made after the time appointed for the payment of it². In this case it is said, that the in-

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April, 1808, resided in America. On the 1st of March Parry indorsed and remitted the bills to his agents in London, with directions to make a payment to the plaintiff, to whom he then and still was indebted. On the 26th April, the bills were presented for acceptance, dishonoured, and protested for non-acceptance, and notice thereof was given to the defendant. The plaintiff having been advised of the remittance by a letter from Parry, dated on the 12th of April, applied to Parry's agents for £450; and on the 6th of June they delivered one of the bills to the plaintiff, *apprising him of its dishonour*, and that therefore he took the bill, subject to all its infirmities. The bill became due on the 28th of June, and payment being refused, this action was brought. The defendant, however, produced at the trial an instrument signed by Parry, dated 14th April, 1804, by which he agreed that the defendant, on paying one of the bills in London, should be exonerated from paying the other; and the defendant proved his having, on the 2d of July, paid one of the bills, which then remained in the hands of Parry's agents, who delivered it upon payment. This agreement was until the 2d of July unknown to the plaintiff and Parry's agents. A verdict was found for the plaintiff, and a case reserved for the opinion of the court. The court (Le Blanc, J. *absente*) held, that the plaintiff having taken this bill after its dishonour, had taken it with all its infirmities, and subject therefore to the agreement between Parry and the defendant. *Postea* to the defendant. See observations on this in the last note.

¹ *Roscoe v. Hardy*, 12 Eust. 434.—2 Campb. 460. S. C. Acceptance of a bill was refused; of this, however, the holders gave no notice, but when the bill became due, again presented it for payment, and that being refused they called upon the plaintiff, an indorser, for payment, and he being ignorant of their laches paid it. He now sued the defendant as his indorser, who set up the laches of the said holders as a defence, and the plaintiff was nonsuited. On motion to set aside this nonsuit, it was urged that the plaintiff ought not to be prejudiced by the laches of subsequent holders, of which he was ignorant, without the means of information. But the court held that his ignorance, which had prevented his availing himself of this laches as a defence, could not alter or revive the liability of the defendant, who had been discharged by the same laches. See the observations on this case by Gibbs, C. J. in *O'Keefe v. Dunn*, 1 Marsh. 622. and 6 Taunt. 305. Ante, 162, n. 1.

² *Mutford v. Walcot*, 1 Lord Raym. 575. — *Dehers v. Harriot*, 1 Show. 163.—*Boehm v. Sterling*, 7 T. R. 430.—*Dehers v. Harriot*, 1

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dorsement is equivalent to the act of drawing a bill payable at sight¹. But bills under five pounds cannot be indorsed after they are due². And there is a material distinction between a transfer made before a bill is due, and one made after that time; in the first case, the transfer carries no suspicion on the face of it, and the assignee receives it on its own intrinsic credit, nor is he bound to inquire into any circumstances existing between the assignor and any of the previous parties to the bill, as he will not be affected by them³. But when a transfer of a bill is made *after it is due*, whether by indorsement or mere delivery, it is settled⁴, that at least it is to be left to the jury upon the slightest circumstance, to presume that the indorsee was acquainted with the fraud, or had notice of the circum-

Show. 163. A bill was indorsed to the plaintiff after it was due, and he had judgment without any objection on this ground.

Mutford v. Walcot, 1 Ld. Raym. 575. Holt, C. J. said, he remembered a case where a bill was negotiated after the day of payment, and he had all the eminent merchants in London with him at his chambers, and they all held it to be very common and usual, and a very good practice.

¹ Dehors v. Harriot, 1 Show. 164.

² 17 Geo. 3. c. 30. s. 1.—Bayl. 62.

³ Per Buller, J. in Brown v. Davis, 3 T. R. 82.—Per Gibbs, C. J. in O'Keefe v. Dunn, 1 Marsh. 621, 2.—6 Taunt. 305, ante, 162, note 1.

⁴ Brown v. Davis, 3 T. R. 80.—Roberts v. Eden, 1 Bos. in Pul. 399.—Tinson v. Francis, 1 Campb. Ni. Pri. 19.—Brown v. Davis, 3 T. R. 80. Davis drew a note payable to Sandall or order; Sandall indorsed it to Taddy, and he had it presented and noted for non-payment. Davis then paid the money to Sandall, and he took up the note from Taddy, but instead of returning the note to Davis, indorsed it to Brown. Brown thereupon sued Davis, and on Davis's offering to prove these facts, Lord Kenyon thought they would not amount to a defence, unless it could be proved that Brown knew them when he took the note, and he rejected the evidence; but upon a rule nisi for a new trial, and cause shewn, Lord Kenyon said, he thought there ought to be further inquiry, it did not strike him at the trial that the note had been noted before Brown took it, and that that circumstance ought to have awakened Brown's suspicion. Ashhurst and Buller, Js. thought that the party taking a note after it was due, was to be considered as taking it on the credit of the person from whom he received it, and that whatever would be a defence against the giver, would be a defence against the receiver; upon which Lord Kenyon said, he agreed with that, if the note appeared on the face of it to have been dishonoured, or if knowledge could be brought home to the indorsee, that it had been so, but otherwise he was not prepared to go that length. Grose, J. said, if collusion could be proved between the defendant and Sandall, the defendant would not be entitled to insist on the objection, but as the case then stood he thought there ought to be a new trial. Rule absolute.

stances which would have affected the validity of the bill, had it been in the hands of the person who was holder thereof, at the time it became due; and though the indorsee may have been ignorant of the fraud, yet any objection which might have been taken against the bill when in the hands of the indorser, may be taken against him, if the bill or note when he took it, appeared upon the face of it to have been dishonoured¹; and though Lord Kenyon, C. J. in this case, appears to have been of opinion, that the mere circumstance of a bill being over due, is not sufficient to affect the indorsee; and though in *Columbies v. Slim*², the Court of K. B. held, that an indorsement, after action brought on a note over due, would nevertheless give the indorsee a right of action, unless he had notice of the action; yet Buller, J. and Ashhurst, J. were of opinion, in the first mentioned case, that when a note is over due, its being out of the common course of dealing, is alone such a suspicious circumstance, as makes it incumbent on the party receiving it, to satisfy himself that it is a good one, and that if he omit to do so, he takes it on the credit of the indorser, and must stand in the situation of the person who was holder at the time it was due; and the latter opinion appears now to prevail³. This rule equally applies to the case

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¹ Id. *ibid*.

² Trin. 12 Geo. 3. 18 Vol. MS. paper books, page 62.

³ *Banks v. Colwell*, cited 3 T. R. 81.—*Brown v. Turner*, 7 T. R. 630.—*Tinson v. Francis*, 1 Campb. 19.—*Boehm v. Sterling*, 7 T. R. 427.—*Good v. Coe*, cited 7 T. R. 427, 429. Bayl. 63.

Banks v. Colwell, cited 3 T. R. 81. Indorsee of a note payable *on demand* against the maker. The notes were given for smuggled goods, part of it was paid, and it was not indorsed to the plaintiff till a year and a half after it was given, no privity was brought home to the plaintiff, but Buller, J. was clearly of opinion he ought to be nonsuited, and said it had been repeatedly ruled at Guildhall, that if a bill or note was indorsed over after it was due, the indorsee took it on the credit of the indorser, and stood in his situation. See *vide Morris v. Lee*, Bayl. 233, n. b.

Brown v. Turner, 7 T. R. 630. Pritchard paid some stock-jobbing differences for the defendant, and drew on him for the amount; defendant accepted the bill, and after it became due, Pritchard indorsed it to the plaintiff, for a prior debt. A question was made, whether the illegality of the original transaction vitiated the bill;

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of a banker's check transferred long after it was first issued¹.

A party, however, to whom an over due bill has been indorsed, is clothed with all the advantages of the party from whom he received it, and therefore it has been decided, that in an action by the second indorsee against the acceptor of a bill of exchange, if the person who indorsed it to the plaintiff, could himself have maintained an action upon it, the defendant cannot give in evidence, that it was accepted for a

the plaintiff having taken it after it became due, and consequently not being entitled to recover on it, if Pritchard could not. Lord Kenyon being of opinion, that Pritchard could not have recovered on the bill, directed a verdict for the defendant, and the court being of opinion, that the direction was right, refused a rule nisi for a new trial.

Tinson v. Francis, 1 Campb. 19. Indorsee against the maker of a promissory note; the defendant proved that it was given for the accommodation of one T. the payee, and dishonoured, and that the plaintiff had received it from a Mr. Stevens, to whom it was given to be returned to the defendant; plaintiff offered to prove that he had given a valuable consideration for the note. Lord Ellenborough said, after a bill or note is due, it comes disgraced to the indorsee, and it is his duty to make enquiries concerning it, if he takes it, though he give a full consideration for it, he takes it on the credit of the indorser, and subject to all the equities with which it may be incumbered.

Boehm v. Sterling, 7 T. R. 423. Muilman lent the defendant his acceptance for £244. 14s. at three months, and the defendant gave Muilman a check upon his banker for the amount, dated 17th February, 1796, the year was, perhaps, intended for 1797. On the 20th of January, Muilman gave this check to the plaintiff in payment of an old debt; Muilman died before his acceptance became due, and the defendant was obliged to take it up. In an action upon the check, the defendant urged, that Muilman could not have sued him upon this check, and that therefore the plaintiff could not, because he took it, so many months after it was dated. Lord Kenyon left it to the jury, whether the plaintiff took it *bonâ fide*, and without knowing the circumstances under which Muilman held it; they found for the plaintiff, and on a rule nisi for a new trial, and cause shewn, Lord Kenyon admitted, that it was to be considered as a rule, that the person who takes a bill after it is due, is subject to the same equity as the party from whom he took it, though the bill did not appear upon the face of it to have been dishonoured, and he thought there was no distinction in this respect, between checks upon bankers and bills of exchange; but as the defendant had not issued this check until nine months after it was dated, he thought it was not competent to him to object to the time when the plaintiff took it. The other judges agreed, that the rule mentioned by Lord Kenyon was to be considered as settled, but for the reasons given by Lord Kenyon, that it did not bear upon this case. Rule discharged.

¹ *Boehm v. Sterling*, 7 T. R. 423. see the last note.—*Banks v. Colwell*, ante, 163.—Sed vide *Morris v. Lee*, Bayl. 233.

debt contracted in smuggling, although it was indorsed to the plaintiff after it had become due¹. And it is reported to have been decided, that it is not of itself a defence to an action by the indorsee of a bill, that it was accepted for the accommodation of the drawer, without consideration, and that he indorsed it to the plaintiff after it was due, unless it be also shewn, that the plaintiff gave no value for the bill².

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A party to a bill or check, who has himself transferred it to another after it was due or long after the date of the check, will not be at liberty to object on the ground of fraud to the payment of it, when in the hands of a third person, who must necessarily have also received it after it was due; for it is obvious payment could not have been demanded when the bill was due, as it was not then issued; and the difficulty was occasioned by the party himself, who so gave to it an improper circulation³. Where it has been improperly indorsed after due, a party interested in having it delivered up, may file a bill in equity, or sometimes

¹ *Chalmers v. Lanion*, 1 Campb. 383. To an action by the indorsee against the acceptor of a bill, one ground of defence was, that the bill had been accepted for a debt contracted in a smuggling transaction, and that though it had been indorsed for value, before it became due, to a bona fide holder; yet that it had been indorsed by him to the plaintiffs, after it was due, and it was contended, that having been so indorsed to the plaintiffs, it was competent to the defendant to set up the illegality of the consideration as a defence, in like manner as if the action had been brought by the payee; but Lord Ellenborough held, that if the plaintiff's indorser might have maintained an action upon the bill, the circumstance of the indorsement to them having been made after the bill had become due, was insufficient to let in the proposed defence; and the court of King's Bench concurred in opinion with his lordship.

² *Charles v. Marsden*, 1 Taunt. 224. Indorsee of a drawer of a bill against the acceptor. The defendant pleaded that he had accepted the bill for the accommodation of the drawer, and without any consideration; and that it was indorsed to the plaintiff after it was due, and that plaintiff knew the circumstance. On special demurrer to the replication, the argument turned on the validity of the plea; the court held, that as there was no averment of fraud in the plea; nor that the plaintiff had not given a valuable consideration for the bill, the plea was bad and gave judgment for the plaintiff. See *vide* *Tinson v. Francis*, 1 Campb. 19. ante, p. 166.

³ *Boehm v. Sterling*, 7 T. R. 423. ante, p. 166. n. 1.

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support an action of trover, though in truth the bill is of no value¹.

If out of the usual course of business, a bill or note be paid before it is due, by any other party than the acceptor or the maker, and be re-issued before it is at maturity, even in fraud of some of the parties, yet an innocent indorsee may recover upon it². And a bill of exchange is negotiable, *ad infinitum*, until it has been paid by the acceptor, and therefore if the drawer pay it after it is due, he may indorse it to a fresh party, who may sue the acceptor thereon³, but when a bill has been once paid by the acceptor, it is *functus officio* at common law, and by the express legislative provision in the stamp laws, no longer re-issuable⁴; and a bill or note cannot be negotiated after it has been once paid, if such negotiation would make any of the parties liable, who would otherwise be discharged⁵. The stamp laws contain an exception in favour of promissory notes payable to bearer on demand of a sum not exceeding £100, which, if duly stamped for that purpose, may be re-issued after payment by the maker⁶.

A person not originally party to a bill, by paying it for the honour of the parties to it, acquires a right of action against all those parties⁷. And after a pay-

¹ *Goggerly v. Cuthbert*, 2 New Rep. 170.—Ante, 143.

² *Burbridge v. Manners*, 3 Campb. 194.

³ Per Lord Ellenborough, in *Callow v. Lawrence*, 3 M. & S. 97.—*Gomeserra v. Berkeley*, 1 Wils. 46.

⁴ *Id. ibid.* *Holroyd v. Whitehead*, 1 Marsh. 130. and 55 Geo. 3. c. 184. s. 19.

⁵ *Beck v. Robley*, cited 1 H. Bla. 89. (n). Brown drew a bill upon Robley, which Robley accepted, payable to Hodgson or order; Robley did not pay it when it was presented, upon which Brown took it up; Brown afterwards indorsed it to Beck, and Beck brought an action upon it against Robley, but the jury thought, that when Brown took up the bill, its negotiability ceased, and found for the defendant; and on a rule nisi, for a new trial, the court thought the jury right, and Lord Mansfield said, "when a draft is given, payable to A. or order, the purpose is, that it shall be paid to A. or order, and when it comes back unpaid, and is taken up by the drawer, it ceases to be a bill; if it were negotiable here, Hodgson would be liable, for which there is no colour." See observations on this case, *Callow v. Lawrence*, 3 M. & S. 97, 8. and Bayl. 66.

⁶ 55 Geo. 3. c. 184. s. 14., &c.

⁷ *Mertens v. Winnington*, 1 Esp. Rep. 112. et post.

ment of a part, a bill may be indorsed over for the residue¹. If the holder of a bill be indebted to a prior party, and be doubtful as to his solvency, it is not advisable to transfer the bill, because, if he holds it, he may treat it as a mutual credit, and set off the amount against his own debt; but if he transfer it, and after the act of bankruptcy is obliged to take it up, he can only prove under the commission, and receive a dividend, and must pay the whole of his own debt².

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If a party, whether before or after a bill or note be due, become the indorsee or holder by delivery, with notice that the party from whom he receives it had no right to make the transfer, he will acquire no better right than such party, and a person who discounts a bill for the full value, after he knows that it has been lost by the owner, will not only be precluded from recovering thereon, but will be liable to an action of trover, even without any previous demand³; nor can a person who receives a bill with notice that an action has been commenced thereon, and still depending, sustain another action against the same party⁴.

With respect to the *modes* by which transfers of a bill or note may be made, they depend on the terms of the instrument, as whether it be payable to the bearer, or to the order of the drawer or payee; in the former case it is transferrable by delivery, and in the latter

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¹ Hawkins v. Cardy, Lord Raym. 360.—Carth. 466.—1 Salk. 65. S. C.—Hawkins v. Gardner, 12 Mod. 213.—Johnson v. Kennion, 2 Wils. 262.

² Ex parte Hale, 3 Ves. jun. 304. — 3 T. R. 509.—6 T. R. 57. — 1 Mont. 543.—See post, Bankruptcy.

³ Lovell v. Martin, 4 Taunt. 799.

⁴ Marsh and another v. Newell, 1 Taunt. 109. 'This was a rule nisi, to cancel the bail bond given herein under the following circumstances: Plaintiff had arrested defendant on a promissory note payable to plaintiff, or bearer; plaintiff afterwards paid the note to one Frost, who likewise arrested the defendant upon the same instrument. The court held, that as the transfer of the note to Frost was accompanied with a notice of the action which was pending, Frost could not, after such notice, be permitted to bring a second action against the defendant.'

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by indorsement, which may be made either in blank, in full, conditional, or restrictive¹.

When a bill or note is by the terms of it payable to a certain person or bearer, it is transferrable by mere delivery²; and where a bill is payable to the order of a fictitious person, it will operate against all parties aware of the circumstance, as a bill payable to bearer, and will be transferrable by delivery³.

A bill payable to the order of a certain person, or to that person or order, or assigns, or to the drawer's order, is transferrable in the first instance only by indorsement⁴.

No particular form of words is essential to an *indorsement*, the mere signature of the party making it is in general sufficient⁵. An indorsement which mentions the name of the person in whose favour it is made, is called an indorsement in full, and an indorsement which does not, is called an indorsement in blank. After an indorsement in full, the indorsee can only transfer his interest in the bill or note by indorsement in writing, but after an indorsement in blank, he may transfer by delivery only, and so long as the indorsement continues in blank, it makes the bill or note

¹ Per Eyre, C. J. in *Gibson v. Minet*, 1 Hen. Bla. 605. "Bills of exchange being of several kinds, the title to sue upon any one bill of exchange in particular, will depend upon what kind of bill it is, and whether the holder claims title to it as the original payee, or as deriving from the original payee or from the drawer; in the case of a bill drawn payable to the drawer's own order, who is in the nature of an original payee, the title of an original payee is immediate and apparent on the face of the bill. The derivative title is a title by assignment, a title which the common law does not acknowledge, but which exists only by the custom of merchants, as it is by force of the custom of merchants, that a bill of exchange is assignable at all, of necessity; the custom must direct how it shall be assigned, and in respect of bills payable to order, the custom has directed that the assignment should be made by a writing on the bill called an indorsement, appointing the contents of that bill to be paid to some third person, and in respect of bills drawn payable to bearer that the assignment should be constituted by delivery only."

² See last note.

³ *Gibson v. Minet*, 1 Hen. Bla. 600. ante, 83, 4.

⁴ *Supra*, n. 1.

⁵ *Hill v. Lewis*, Holt, 117.—*Pinkney v. Hall*, Ld. Raym. 176.

payable to bearer¹; and if the first indorsement on a bill or note be made in blank, it will, as against the payee, drawer, or acceptor, be assignable afterwards by mere delivery, notwithstanding subsequent indorsements in full having been made thereon².

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When a bill or note is payable to the order of the drawer, or of a third person as payee therein named, the name of such drawer or payee must appear in the first indorsement, whether such indorsement be intended to convey to the indorsee the absolute property in the bill or note, or merely to enable him to receive payment thereof, as agent of such indorser³; and although such indorsement is usually made by the drawer or payee writing on the back of the bill, yet it may be made by writing on the face of it, for the writing on the face of a note is of the same effect as an indorsement, and is always accepted and taken as such by the courts of law⁴.

¹ *Peacock v. Rhodes*, Dougl. 611. 633. A bill was drawn by the defendant, payable to Ingham or order, Ingham indorsed it in blank, after which it was stolen; the plaintiff took it *bonâ fide*, and paid a valuable consideration for it, and acceptance and payment being refused, gave notice to the defendant, and brought this action. A case was reserved for the opinion of the court, and it was contended, that this bill was not to be considered as payable to the bearer, and the plaintiff had no better right upon it than the person of whom he took it; but the court said, there was no difference between a note indorsed in blank, and one payable to bearer, and the plaintiff had judgment. *Francis v. Mott*, at N. P. before Lord Mansfield, cited Dougl. 612. was a similar case, and the attorney-general, who was for the defendant, after attempting unsuccessfully to shew that the plaintiff knew the bill was obtained unfairly, gave up the cause.

² *Smith v. Clarke*, Peake 225. A bill was indorsed in blank by the payee, and after some other indorsements was specially indorsed in full to Jackson, or order; Jackson sent it to Muir and Atkinson, but did not indorse it, and Muir and Atkinson discounted it with the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs struck out all the indorsements except the first, which continued in blank. This was an action against the acceptor, and it was objected that the plaintiffs could not recover without an indorsement by Jackson, but Lord Kenyon held otherwise, and the plaintiff recovered. The plaintiffs afterwards proved that Jackson desired Muir and Atkinson to discount this bill, but Lord Kenyon thought the plaintiffs' case made out without this evidence.

³ *Barlow v. Bishop*, 1 East. 432.—3 Esp. 266. S. C.

⁴ *Per cur. Yarborough v. Bank of England*, 16 East. 12.

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An indorsement made upon a bill or note thus, "I give this note to A." may be proved as testamentary, and is sufficient to transfer the property therein by the party making it¹; but the mere circumstance of the payee putting a number or any private mark on a bill or note will not be equivalent to an indorsement². So where a party promised to indorse a bill, and upon the faith of such promise a stranger wrote an indorsement in the name of the party, it was considered that such indorsement was invalid³.

We have already seen that a bill of exchange may be drawn by an agent, so also it may be indorsed by a person acting in that capacity; in which case he must expressly indorse as agent, as, "E. F. per proc. A. B." or he may write the name of his principal, otherwise the indorsement would be inoperative⁴.

In the negotiation of bills it frequently happens that parties who are employed merely as agents are obliged to indorse them for the purpose of transmitting them to their principals, and if such indorsement be written unconditionally, the agent (though he have no interest whatever in the transaction⁵) will be liable to pay the amount of the bill; and therefore to exempt themselves from responsibility it is necessary in such case to specify in the indorsement, that he makes it without intending to incur personal responsibility for the payment, which may be effected by adding the words '*sans recours*' which operates as a special indorsement, and is a notice to subsequent parties taking the bill that such persons are acting only as agents⁶.

¹ Per Lord Chancellor, in *Chatworth v. Leach*, 4 Ves. jun. 565.

² *Fenn v. Harrison*, 3 T. R. 757.—Ex parte *Shuttleworth*, 3 Ves. jun. 368.

³ *Moxon and another v. Pulling and another*, 4 Campb. 51.

⁴ *Barlow v. Bishop*, 1 East. 432.—3 Esp. 266. S. C. Ante, 36.

⁵ *Le Feuvre v. Lloyd*, 5 Taunt. 749. Ante, 36, 7. n. 4.

⁶ *Goupy v. Harden*, 7 Taunt. 159, 162, 3. Ante, 36, 7. n. 4. see forms, post, 180. n. 1.

In the case of bills under five pounds, the indorsement must be attested by a subscribing witness, and must mention the name and place of abode of the indorsee, and bear date at or before the making thereof; in short, it must be made in the form prescribed in the schedule to the statute 17 Geo. 3. c. 30. s. 1, which regulates these indorsements¹. Where the residence of the indorser of a bill is not well known in the commercial world, it would be advisable for him in all cases to mention in his indorsement the name of the place where he resides².

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An indorsement in *blank* is by far the most common, and is made by the mere writing of the indorser's name on the back of the bill, without any mention of the name of the person in whose favour the indorsement is made, and is sufficient to transfer the right of action to any bona fide holder, and so long as it continues in blank makes the bill or note payable to bearer³; but the holder may write over it what he pleases, and a blank indorsement on a bill of exchange, conveys a joint right of action to as many as agree in suing on the bill, though such persons be not in partnership⁴.

In blank.

It has been said, that such an indorsement does not transfer the property and interest in the bill to the indorsee, without some further act⁵; but that it gives him, as well as any other person to whom it is afterwards transferred, the power of constituting himself assignee of the beneficial interest in the bill, by filling it up payable to himself, (as by writing over the indorser's name "pay the contents,") which he may do

¹ See provision in France, Pothier Traité du Contrat de Change, part 1. chap. 3. num. 130. and see Pardessus, 1 tom. 364 to 379.

² Bul. Ni. Pri. 276.

³ Bayl. 46.—Peacock v. Rhodes, Dougl. 633. ante, 171.—Newsome v. Thornton, 6 East. 21, 2.

⁴ Per Lord Ellenborough, in Ord v. Portal, 3 Campb. 240.

⁵ Clark v. Pigot, 1 Salk. 126.—12 Mod. 192. S. C.—Lambert v. Pack, 1 Salk. 128.—Lucas v. Haynes, id. 130.—Lambert v. Oakes, 12 Mod. 244.—Lord Raym. 443. S. C.—Vin. Ab. tit. Bills of Exchange, H. 6.—Bul. Ni. Pri. 275.

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at the time of trial¹; it is now however considered, that a blank indorsement is sufficient of itself to transfer the right of action to any bona fide holder. A blank indorsement may be converted into a special one, by the holder's inserting above it the words "pay the contents to A. B." but such holder by writing those words, and transferring the bill to the party named in the indorsement, without writing his own name as an indorser, will not be liable on the bill². If the indorsee fill up the blank indorsement, and make it payable to himself, it is said the action cannot be brought in the name of the indorser, which otherwise it may be³.

¹ Theed v. Lovell, 2 Stra. 1103.—Lambert v. Oakes, 12 Mod. 244. Lord Raym. 443. S. C.—Lambert v. Pack. 1 Salk. 127.—Lucas v. Haynes, id. 130.—Dehors v. Harriot, 1 Show. 163.—Moore v. Manning, Comyns, 311.—Lucas v. Marsh, Barnes, 453.—Vin. Ab. tit. Bills of Exchange, H. 8.—Bul. Ni. Pri. 275. 8.

² Vincent and others v. Horlock and others, 1 Campb. 442. Action against defendants as indorsers of a bill of exchange; the declaration stated the bill to have been drawn by Jacks, payable to his own order, indorsed by him to defendants, and by them to plaintiffs. The fact was, that Jacks, the drawer and payee of the bill, indorsed it in blank to Horlock and Co., and that Caleb Jones, one of the partners in that house, wrote over Jacks's signature "pay the contents to Vincent and Co." without signing his own name or that of his firm. Lord Ellenborough. I am clearly of opinion that this is not an indorsement by the defendants, for such a purpose, the name of the party must appear written, with intent to indorse. We see these words, "pay the contents to such a one," written over a blank indorsement every day, without any thought of contracting an obligation, and no obligation is thereby contracted. When a bill is indorsed by the payee in blank a power is given to the indorsee of specially appointing the payment to be made to a particular individual; and what he does in the exercise of this power is only *expressio eorum quæ tacite insunt*. This is a sufficient indorsement to the plaintiffs, but not by the defendants. Plaintiff nonsuited.—See also *Ex parte Isbester*, 1 Rose, 20. S. P.

³ A full or special indorsement contains in itself a transfer of the interest in the bill to the person named in such indorsement, Poth. *Traité du Contrat du Change*, part 1, chap. 2, s. 23, 4. But a bare indorsement, without other words purporting an assignment, does not work an alteration of the property. *Per cur.* Lucas v. Haynes, Salk 130.

Clark v. Pigot, 12 Mod. 193. 1 Salk. 126. S. C. Clark having a bill of exchange payable to him or order, put his name upon it, leaving a vacant space above, and sent it to J. S. his friend, who got it accepted; but the money not being paid, Clark brought *assumpsit* against the acceptor. And it was objected that the action should have been brought by J. S. But *per Holt, C. J.*, J. S. had it in his power to act either as servant or assignee. If he had filled up the blank space, making the bill payable to him, as he might have done if he would, that would have witnessed his election to have received it as indorsee. The property of the bill would have been transferred to him, and he only could have maintained this action against the ac-

A blank indorsement makes a bill transferrable by the indorsee and every subsequent holder by mere delivery¹; and when the first indorsement has been in blank, the bill or note, as against the payee, the drawer, and acceptor, is afterwards assignable by mere delivery, notwithstanding it may have upon it subsequent indorsements in full, because a holder, by delivery, may declare and recover as the indorsee of the payee, and strike out all the subsequent indorsements, whether special or not².

ceptor; but since he has not filled up the blank space, his intention is presumed to act as servant only to Clark, whose name was put there; that on payment thereof a receipt for the money might be written over his name, and therefore the action is maintainable by Clark.

From the foregoing case it appears that a blank indorsement is an equivocal act, and that it is in the power of the party to whom the bill is delivered, to make what use he pleases of such an indorsement. He may either use it as an acquittance to discharge the bill, or as an assignment to charge the indorser. *Selw. N. P.* 4th edit. 331. 2.

Promissory notes and bills of exchange are frequently indorsed in this manner "pay the money to my use," in order to prevent their being filled up with such an indorsement as passes the interest. Per Lord Hardwicke, Ch. in *Snee v. Prescott*, 1 Ark. 249.

"A bill, though once negotiable, is certainly capable of being restrained. I remember this being determined on argument. A blank indorsement makes the bill payable to bearer; but by a special indorsement the holder may stop the negotiability." Per Lord Mansfield, C. J. *Archer v. Bank of England*, Dougl. 659.

¹ *Peacock v. Rhodes*, Dougl. 611, 633. Bayl. 48, 9. A bill was drawn by the defendant payable to Ingram or order; Ingram indorsed it in blank, after which it was stolen; the plaintiff took it *bonâ fide*, and paid a valuable consideration for it, and acceptance and payment being refused, gave notice to the defendant and brought this action. A case was reserved for the opinion of the court, and it was contended, that this bill was not to be considered as payable to bearer, and that the plaintiff had no better right upon it than the person of whom he took it; but the court said, that there was no difference between a note indorsed in blank and one payable to bearer, and the plaintiff had judgment.

² *Smith v. Clarke*, Peake Rep. 225. 1 Esp. Rep. 180. S. C.—Anonymous, 12 Mod. 345. S. P. A bill was indorsed in blank by the payee, and after some other indorsements was indorsed to Jackson or order. Jackson sent it to Muir and Atkinson, but did not indorse it, and Muir and Atkinson discounted it with the plaintiffs; the plaintiff struck out all the indorsements except the first, which continued in blank. This was an action against the acceptor, and it was objected that the plaintiffs could not recover, without an indorsement by Jackson, but Lord Kenyon held otherwise, and the plaintiffs recovered. The plaintiffs afterwards proved that Jackson desired Muir and Atkinson to discount this bill, but Lord Kenyon thought the plaintiffs' case made out without this evidence.

Chaters v. Bell, 4 Esp. Rep. 120. The declaration stated that a bill was drawn payable to Curry, by him indorsed to defendant, and

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Such being the effect of a first indorsement in blank, it has been observed, that it is advisable for the indorsee in some cases to fill it up so as to make it an indorsement in full, in order to avoid the risk which he may run, in case the bill be lost, of its getting into the hands of a *bonâ fide* holder¹. When bills, &c. are deposited in a banker's hands, and entered short in his books, or are in his possession, in case he becomes bankrupt, his assignees will not be entitled thereto, though such deposit enables the banker to pass the interest to a third person taking it *bonâ fide* for a valuable consideration².

Special or in full.

An indorsement in *full*, or special indorsement, is so called, because the indorser not only writes his name or that of his firm, but expresses therein in whose favour the indorsement is made, as, "pay the contents to Mr. *A. B.* or order." This indorsement contains in itself a transfer of the interest in the bill to the person named in the indorsement³, and makes the bill transferrable in the first instance by the indorsement of *A. B.* only⁴; though afterwards, if *A. B.* make a blank indorsement, it is transferrable by delivery as well as by indorsement. As the negotiability of a bill, originally transferrable, can only be restrained by express restrictive words, the words "or order" need not be inserted in a full indorsement, to give the bill a subsequent negotiable quality⁵.

by the defendant to the plaintiff. There were in fact several intermediate indorsements between Curry and the defendant, which were omitted in the declaration, and it was contended that the plaintiff should have either declared as the immediate indorsee of the payee, or have stated all the indorsements. But Lord Ellenborough over-ruled the objection.—See also *Waynam v. Bend*, and *Critchlow v. Parry*, 1 Campb. 175.

¹ Beawes, pl. 178.

² *Zinck v. Walker*, 2 Bla. Rep. 1156.—*Bolton v. Puller*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 547.—*Haille v. Smith*, id. 566.—*Collins v. Martin*, id. 648.—*Giles v. Perkins*, 9 East. 12.—*Carstairs v. Bates*, 3 Campb. 301.

³ Poth. pl. 22, 23, 24.

⁴ *Pots v. Reed*, 6 Esp. Rep. 57. Post, 178, n. 2.—*Mead v. Young*, 4 T. R. 28, and see cases in next note.

⁵ *Moore v. Manning*, Com. Rep. 311.—1 Selw. 332. 4th ed. n. 46. A note was drawn by the defendant, payable to Statham or order, Statham indorsed it to Witherhead, but did not add "or to his order," Witherhead indorsed it to the plaintiff. The defendant contended that there were no express words to authorise Witherhead to assign it, he had no such power; but the whole court resolved, that

The payee or indorsee having the absolute property in the bill, and the right of disposing thereof, has the power of limiting the payment to whom he pleases¹; and consequently he may make a *restrictive* indorsement; thus he may stop the currency of the bill, by giving a bare authority to receive the money, as by an indorsement requesting the drawee to "pay to *A.* for my use," "or to *I. S.* only," or "the within must be credited to *A. B.*" which modes prevent a blank indorsement from being filled up by the indorsee, so as to convey any interest in the bill to himself², and

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as the bill was at first assignable by Statham, as being payable to him or order, and all Statham's interest was transferred to Witherhead, and the right of assigning it was transferred also, and the plaintiff had judgment.

Acheson v. Fountain, 1 Stra. 557. Select Cases, 126. S. C. Upon a case made at nisi prius, coram Pratt, C. J. it appeared that the plaintiff had declared on an indorsement made by *A.* whereby he appointed the payment to be to *B.* or order, and upon producing the bill in evidence, it appeared to be payable to *A.* or order, but the indorsement was in these words, "Pay the contents to *B.*" and therefore it was objected that the indorsement not being to order, did not agree with the plaintiff's declaration; but, upon consideration, the whole court were of opinion that it was well enough, that being the legal import of the indorsement, and that the plaintiff might, upon this, have indorsed it over to another, who would be the proper order of the first indorser.

Edie v. East India Company, 2 Burr. 1216. and 1 Bla. Rep. 295. S. C. Where a foreign bill of exchange was drawn by *A.* on *B.* payable to *C.* or order, and accepted by *B.*, and *C.* indorsed it to *D.* without adding the words, "or order," and *D.* afterwards indorsed it to *E.* who brought an action against *B.* the acceptor, for non-payment, evidence having been adduced at the trial, of the usage of merchants with respect to indorsements of bills payable to order, where the words, "or order," were omitted in the indorsement, which evidence was contradictory, some merchants declaring, that the omission did not make any difference, others that it restrained the negotiability of the bill, and made it payable to the indorsee only, the jury found a verdict for the defendant. On a motion for a new trial, on the ground that evidence of the usage ought not to have been allowed, that the custom of merchants was part of the law of England, and that the law of England was fully settled on this point, the court were unanimous that a new trial ought to be granted, and Lord Mansfield, C. J. said, he was clear, the evidence ought not to have been admitted, for the law was fully settled in the cases of *More v. Manning*, and *Acheson v. Fountain*, (ante, 176). The other judges concurred, and Dennison, J. said, that there was not any instance of a restrictive limitation, where a bill was originally made payable to *A.* or order; that he had never heard of an indorsement to *A.* only, and that in general the indorsement followed the nature of the thing indorsed.

¹ *Edie v. East India Company*, Burr. 1218. Bayl. 49, supra.

² Per Wilmut, J. in *Edie v. East India Company*, Burr. 1227. Bla. Rep. 299. S. C. and per Lord Hardwicke, in *Snee v. Prescott*, 1 Atk.

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transfer.

from making a transfer of the bill, &c.; and, when made for the use of the indorser, is revocable in its nature like a power of attorney¹. But an indorsement of a bill of exchange in these words, "Pay the contents on the bill to *A. B.*, being part of the consideration in a certain deed of assignment executed by the said *A. B.* to the indorsers and others," is not a limited indorsement².

249. Bills and notes are frequently indorsed in this manner, "pray pay the money to my use," in order to prevent their being filled up with such an indorsement as passes the interest; and see Poth. pl. 89, 90.

Archer v. Bank of England, Dougl. 615, 637. A bill was drawn by the plaintiffs upon Claus Heide and Co. payable to Jens Mæstue or order. Mæstue indorsed it to this effect, "*the within must be credited to captain M. L. Dahl, value in account, Christiana, 17th Jan. 1778, Jens Mæstue,*" and sent it to Claus Heide and Co. who credited Dahl for the amount, and gave notice to Dahl and the plaintiffs, that they had done so; an indorsement by Dahl was afterwards forged upon the bill, and the bank discounted it. Claus Heide and Co. having become insolvent, Fulberg paid it, for the honour of the plaintiffs, and upon the ground that the indorsement had restrained the negotiability of the bill, they brought an action for money had and received against the bank; Lord Mansfield directed a nonsuit, but upon a rule to shew cause why there should not be a new trial, and cause shewn, Lord Mansfield, Willes, and Ashurst, Justices, thought the indorsement restrictive, and that Dahl himself could not have indorsed it, and that the plaintiffs were entitled to recover, but Buller, J. thought otherwise, upon which Lord Mansfield said, the whole turned on the question, whether the bill continued negotiable? and if they altered their opinion, they would mention the case again; but it never was mentioned afterwards, and upon a new trial, Lord Mansfield directed the jury to find for the plaintiffs, which they did.

¹ Poth. pl. 168.—Mar. 72. *acc.*—Beawes, pl. 219. *contra.*—Post, 158.

² *Potts v. Reed*, 6 Esp. Rep. 57. Per Lord Ellenborough, this is not a restrictive indorsement, and as to the other words, they are surplusage, and could not affect the subsequent negotiability of the bill. If the bill was payable out of a particular fund, it would affect the negotiability of the bill, but what was here mentioned, was not the fund out of which the bill was to be paid, but the consideration for which the bill was given, which the holder had nothing to do with. Mr. Gamon, the defendant, was here personally liable, though the liability might have been created by the fund mentioned in the indorsement, as arising from the fund so designated by the indorsement; and whenever a party is personally liable, a bill is negotiable. It is, however, necessary to prove Pugh's indorsement, as his name is mentioned in the indorsement, but though so made payable to him by name, there is nothing to restrain its future negotiability; in the case cited, the bill was to be credited to Dahl's account, no such restriction or direction was here. See also *Haussoulier v. Hartsink*, 7 T. R. 733. S. P.

It was once thought, that although the indorser might make a restrictive indorsement, when he intended only to give a bare authority to his agent to receive payment, yet that he could not when the indorsement was intended to transfer the interest in the bill to the indorsee, by any act preclude him from assigning it over to another person, because, as it was said, the assignee purchases it for a valuable consideration, and therefore takes it with all its privileges, qualities, and advantages, the chief of which is its negotiability¹. It has, however, long been settled on the above principle, that any indorser may restrain the negotiability of a bill, by using express words to that effect, as by indorsing it, "payable to J. S. only;" or by indorsing it, "the within must be credited to J. S." or by any other words clearly demonstrating his intention to make a restrictive and limited indorsement; but a mere omission in the indorsement, as leaving out the words "or order," will not in any case prevent a bill being negotiable *ad infinitum*².

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It is competent also to an indorser, to make only a *conditional* transfer of the bill, and therefore if the payee of a bill, annexes a condition to his indorsement before acceptance, the drawee, who afterwards accepts it, is bound by that condition, and if the terms of it be not performed, the property in the bill reverts to the payee, and he may recover the sum payable in an action against the acceptor³.

¹ *Edie v. East India Company*, Burr. 1226.

² *Archer v. Bank of England*, Dougk. 637. ante, 178. in note.

³ See ante, 176. note 5.

⁴ *Robertson v. Kensington and others*, 4 Taunt. 30. Payee against the acceptors of a bill of exchange; when the bill was presented for acceptance it had the following indorsement upon it, "Edinburgh, 19th November, 1808, pay the within sum to Messrs. Clark and Ross, or order, upon my name appearing in the Gazette as ensign in any regiment of the line, between the 1st and 64th, if within two months from this date; P. Robertson." The bill had several subsequent indorsements, and when due, was paid by the acceptors to the holder; the plaintiff's name had never appeared in the Gazette as ensign in any regiment of the line; the plaintiff had a verdict, subject to a case reserved for the opinion of the court. The case was afterwards argued, and for the plaintiff it was contended, that it was competent

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A payee or indorsee of a bill, may also make a *qualified* indorsement, so as to transfer the interest in the bill to the indorsee, and enable him to sue thereon, without rendering the indorser personally responsible for the payment of the bill; and this is the proper mode of indorsing a bill, where an agent indorses a bill on behalf of his principal, and it is not intended that he shall be personally liable¹.

Although an indorsement may be made in blank, in full, or restrictive, yet it cannot, after acceptance, be made for less than the full sum appearing to be due upon the bill, &c. transferred², because a personal contract cannot be apportioned, and it would be making the acceptor liable to two actions, when by the contract raised by his acceptance, he intended to subject himself only to one; but when a bill has been indorsed, before acceptance, for part of the sum for which it is drawn, it has been said that the acceptor may, by his acceptance after this indorsement, become liable to two

for him, by this special indorsement, to make only a conditional transfer of the absolute interest in the bill, and the defendants, by subsequently accepting the bill, became parties to that conditional transfer; that as the condition was not performed, the transfer was defeated, and they became liable, at the expiration of two months, to pay the plaintiff, to whom the property reverted, the contents of the bill, of which none of the indorsers could enforce payment against the acceptors, because they had all received the bill, subject to the condition, and were bound thereby. The court gave judgment for the plaintiff.

¹ Goupy and another v. Harden and others, 7 Taunt. 160, 1. Evidence was given, that when agents indorse foreign bills, for the mere purpose of transmitting them without intending to incur responsibility for the payment, it is their practice to add to the indorsement the words, "*sans recours*." Dallas, J. observed, the defendants might have specially indorsed this bill, *sans recours*, if they had thought fit so to do, but they have not done it, and therefore they are personally liable; see also ante, 36, 7. n. 4.

The mode of making a qualified indorsement, may be thus: "I hereby indorse, assign, and transfer, my right and interest in this bill to C. D. or order, but with this express condition, that I shall not be liable to the said C. D. or any holder, for the acceptance or payment of such bill, A. B." or the form may be, as adopted in France, by the indorser writing his name, and subscribing, "without recourse to me." See ante, 172, n. 6.

² Hawkins v. Cardy, Ld. Raym. 360.—Carth. 466.—12 Mod. 213. 1 Salk. 65. S. C.

actions¹; and when the drawer of a bill has paid part, it may be indorsed over for the residue². IV. Mode of transfer.

Upon a transfer, whether by indorsement or bare delivery, the bill should be *delivered* to the assignee; and in all cases of a transfer of a bill drawn in sets, each part should be delivered to the person in whose favour the transfer is made, otherwise, the same inconveniencies may follow, which we have seen may arise upon a neglect to deliver each of them to the payee³. A delivery, however, is not essential to vest the legal right in the payee or indorsee, and it need not be alledged in pleading; and if, after acceptance, the acceptor should improperly detain the bill in his hands, the drawer might nevertheless sue him on it, and give him notice to produce the bill, and in default of production give parol evidence of its contents⁴. It is not necessary for the holder to give any notice to the acceptor of the indorsements, nor need such notice be averred in pleading⁵.

¹ Beawes, pl. 286. *Sed quære supra*, last note.

² Johnson v. Kennion, 2 Wils. 262.—Hawkins v. Cardy, 1 Salk. 65.—Ld. Raym. 360.—Carth. 466.—12 Mod. 213. S. C.—Callow v. Lawrence, 3 M. & S. 95.

Hawkins v. Cardy, Ld. Raym. 360.—Carth. 466.—12 Mod. 213. Salk. 65. In an action upon a bill drawn by the defendant for £46. 19s. payable to Blackman or order, the declaration stated that Blackman indorsed £43. 4s. of it to the plaintiff; the defendant pleaded an insufficient plea, upon which the plaintiff demurred, but the whole court held the declaration bad, because the bill could not be indorsed for less than all the money due thereon, and the plaintiff discontinued his action; and per Gould, J. in Johnson v. Kennion, 2 Wils. 262. where the drawer of a bill has paid part, you may indorse it over for the residue, otherwise not, because it would subject him to a variety of actions.

³ Ante, 81, 122.—Bayl. 68.

⁴ Churchill v. Gardner, 7 T. R. 596.—Smith v. M'Clure, 5 East. 476.—2 Smith's Rep. 443. S. C.

Churchill v. Gardner, 7 T. R. 596. In an action by the payee of a bill, against the acceptor, the declaration stated, that the drawer made his certain bill of exchange, but there was no allegation that he delivered it to the plaintiff, and the defendant demurred specially for that cause; but the court was clearly of opinion, that there was no foundation for the objection; the delivery of the bill to the plaintiff being sufficiently implied in the allegation, that the drawer "made" the bill.

⁵ Reynolds v. Davis, 1 Bos. & Pul. 625.

V. The effect of a transfer ; and the right which it vests in the assignee ; and the obligation which it imposes on the person making it ; and how that obligation may be discharged.

The nature of a transfer of a bill, note, or check, the right which it vests in the assignee, and the obligation which it imposes on the person making it, may, in a great measure, be collected from what has been previously said.

With respect to the *right* of such assignee, whether by indorsement or delivery, he has such an interest in the bill or note that he may effect a policy of insurance to secure the due payment¹; and though he has no direct legal or equitable lien upon property deposited by the drawer with the acceptor to cover the liability of the latter, in respect of his acceptance; yet, on the bankruptcy of the drawer and acceptor, the arrangement of the property between the two estates, may indirectly render such an equity available². If the holder is a debtor to either of the parties to a bill, who he expects will become a bankrupt, it is most advisable for him not to negotiate such bill, because if he be the holder at the time of the bankruptcy, he may set off the amount of the bill against the claim of the assignees upon him for the amount of his debt, whereas, if he be not the holder at the time of the act of bankruptcy, he cannot set off the amount, but must pay the whole of his own debt to the assignees, and when the bill has been returned to him, can only prove and receive a dividend upon the same³. We have already seen, that a person who receives a bill, with notice that it is to be negotiated only upon certain terms, holds the bill subject to such terms, and therefore where A., a creditor of B., having deeds in his possession as a security for the debt, received a bill indorsed by B. for the purpose of getting it discounted, but neglects to do so, he cannot appropriate the bill to his own use, and maintain an action upon it against the acceptor⁴; but if a bill be transmitted to an holder, in order that he

¹ Tasker v. Scott, 6 Taunt. 234.

² Ex parte Waring, 2 Rose, 182.

³ Post tit. bankruptcy.

⁴ Delaney v. Mitchell, 1 Stark. 439.

may get the same discounted and take up another bill which is falling due, and to which he was a party, if he do not succeed in getting such bill discounted, but pays the other, he may retain the transmitted bill and sue the parties thereto, in order to reimburse himself the amount of the bill which he took up¹.

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With respect to the *liability* of the party transferring a bill, it is said that a transfer by *indorsement*, is equivalent in its effect to the drawing of a bill, the indorser being in almost every respect considered as a new drawer on the original drawee²; on which principle it is said to have been decided, that a promissory note indorsed may be declared on as a bill of exchange³; and if the drawee refuse to accept, the indorser is immediately liable to be sued⁴. A transfer by indorsement, vests in the indorsee a right of action against all the precedent parties whose names are on the bill; and after the bill has been duly indorsed by the payee in blank, it is transferrable by mere delivery,

¹ *Walsh v. Tyler*, sittings at Guildhall, in K. B. coram Lord Ellenborough, after Michaelmas Term, 1817. Declaration on a bill of exchange, dated 18th March, 1817, for £50, payable three months after date, drawn by John Shaw on the defendant Tyler, and indorsed by him to the plaintiff. The defence was, that Shaw the drawer, sent the bill to the plaintiff to be discounted, and with a request to send up the amount to Shaw, in order that he might take up a bill for £77. 10s. then falling due, and that the plaintiff did not send up the money; and afterwards the bill for £77. 10s. having been returned to and paid by him, he proved the amount under Shaw's commission. Per Lord Ellenborough, This affords no defence. If the produce of the bill was to have been applied for another purpose, then the plaintiff had no right to retain the bill or sustain this action; but the plaintiff being unable to discount the bill, and having been compelled to pay that to which he was a party, he had a right to protect himself by applying the bill in question to cover his own advance. Mr. Scarlett for the plaintiff.

² *Smallwood v. Vernon*, 1 Stra. 479.—*Hill v. Lewis*, 1 Salk. 133. *Williams v. Field*, 3 Salk. 68.—*Claxton v. Swift*, 2 Show. 441.—S. C. id. 495. 501.—*Heylyn v. Adamson*, 2 Burr. 674.—Anonymous, Holt. 115.—*Claxton v. Swift*, Skin. 255.—Anonymous, id. 343.—*Hill v. Lewis*, id. 411.—*Luke v. Hayes*, 1 Atk. 282.—*Haly v. Lane*, 2 Atk. 182.—*Gibson v. Minet*, 1 Hen. Bla. 587.—*Houle v. Baxter*, 3 East. 182.—*Ballingalls v. Gloster*, id. 482.

³ *Brown v. Harraden*, 4 T. R. 149. cites *Buller v. Cripps*, 6 Mod. 29, 30.

⁴ *Ballingalls v. Gloster*, 3 East. 481.—*Starey v. Barnes*, 7 East. 458.

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and the holder may sue all parties to the bill; but unless the payee, or the drawer, when the bill was payable to his order, has first indorsed it, a party who becomes possessed of it, can only sue the person from whom he obtained it¹. As the act of indorsing is similar to that of drawing, the *obligation which it imposes* on the indorser to the indorsee, and the mode in which that obligation may be extinguished, by the holder's laches or otherwise, is in all cases exactly similar to that which a drawer of a bill is under to the payee²; for, as observed by Lord Ellenborough, C. J., when it is laid down, that an indorser stands in all respects in the same situation as a drawer, all the consequences follow which are attached to the situation of the latter³. The indorser, however, is not under any liability in any instance to the acceptor, unless indeed in the case of an acceptance for his honour⁴. An indorsement also imposes the same obligation on the person making it, although the bill contain no words rendering it assignable⁵. And we have seen, that if an agent indorse in his own name without qualifying his indorsement, he will be personally liable even to his principal⁶.

A transfer by *delivery*, without any indorsement, when made on account of a pre-existing debt, or for a valuable consideration passing to the assignor at the

¹ Anonymous, *Ld. Raym.* 738.—*Miller v. Race*, *Burr.* 452.—*Grant v. Vaughan*, *id.* 1516.—*Peacock v. Rhodes*, *Dougl.* 633.

² *Ibid.*—*Lambert v. Oakes*, *Holt*, 117.—*Ante*, 136, 7, 8.

³ *Ballingalls v. Gloster*, 3 *East*. 483.—*Starey v. Barnes*, 7 *East*. 435.

⁴ *Poth.* pl. 111, 112.

⁵ *Hill v. Lewis*, 1 *Salk.* 132.—*Edle v. East India Company*, *Burr.* 1226.—*Lambert v. Oakes*, *Holt*, 117.—*Cooke's Bank. Law*, 173.

Hill v. Lewis, 1 *Salk.* 132. Moor drew one note payable to the defendant or his order, and another payable to him generally, without any words to make it assignable; the defendant indorsed them to Zouch, and Zouch to the plaintiff; the first objection was, that the plaintiff had been guilty of laches, but the jury thought he had not, and it was then urged that the second note was not assignable. And *Holt*, C. J. agreed, that the indorsement of this note did not make him that drew it chargeable to the indorsee, for the words "or to his order," give authority to assign it by indorsement, but the indorsement of a note which has not these words, is good so as to make the indorser chargeable to the indorsee.

⁶ *Ante*, 36.

time of the assignment, as where goods are sold to him¹, imposes an obligation on the person making it to the person in whose favour it is made, similar to that of a transfer by indorsement²; a distinction was indeed once taken between the transfer of a bill or check for a precedent debt, and for a debt arising at the time of the transfer, and it was held that if *A.* bought goods of *B.* and at the same time gave him a draft on a banker, which *B.* took without any objection, it would amount to payment by *A.*, and *B.* could not resort to him in the event of the failure of the banker³. But it is now settled, that in such case, unless it was expressly agreed at the time of the transfer, that the assignee should take the instrument assigned, as payment, and run the risk of its being paid, he may, in case of default of payment by the drawee, maintain an action against the assignor, on the consideration of the transfer⁴. And, where a debtor in payment of goods gives an order to pay the bearer the amount in bills on London, and the party takes bills for the amount, he will not, unless guilty of laches, discharge the original debtor⁵. And

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¹ *Owenson v. Morse*, 7 T. R. 64.—*Ward v. Evans*, Ld. Raym. 928. *Lambert v. Oakes*, 12 Mod. 244.—*Anonymous*, id. 408.—*Puckford v. Maxwell*, 6 T. R. 52.

² *Ward v. Evans*, Ld. Raym. 928.—*Anonymous*, 12 Mod. 408.—*Ward v. Sir Peter Evans*, id. 521.—*Moor v. Warren*, and *Holme v. Barry*, 1 Stra. 415.—*Turner v. Mead*, id. 416.—*semb. contra.*—*Anonymous*, 12 Mod. 517.

³ *Clerk v. Mundall*, 12 Mod. 203.—1 Salk. 124.—3 Salk. 68. S. C. *Anonymous*, id. 408.—*Anonymous*, id. 517.—*Anonymous*, Holt, 298, 9. *et post.*—*Vin. Ab. tit. Payment, A.*—*Cooke's Bank. Law*, 173.

⁴ *Owenson v. Morse*, 7 T. R. 65, 66.—*Popley v. Ashley*, Holt, 122. *ante*, 125 to 130.

⁵ *Ex parte Dixon*, cited in 6 T. R. 142, 3, and *ante*, 128, 9, &c. *Ex parte Blackburne*, 10 Ves. 204.—1 Mont. 142, 149, 150. *acc.*—*Vernon v. Roverie*, 2 Show. 296.—*Bolton v. Reichard*, 1 Esp. Rep. 106. *contra.*

Owenson v. Morse, 7 T. R. 64. The plaintiff bought some plate of the defendant, and gave him some country bank-notes in payment; the notes were dishonoured, on which the defendant refused to deliver the plate. The plaintiff brought trover and insisted that the notes were payment, but on a case reserved, the court held that they were no payment unless the defendant had agreed to take them as payment, and run the risk of their being paid. Nonsuit entered. See also *Tapley v. Martens*, 8 T. R. 451.

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where a person gets a bank note, navy bill, or other bill or note discounted, without indorsing it, and it turns out to be forged, he is liable to refund the money to the party from whom he received it'. And

Ex parte Blackburne, 10 Ves. jun. 204. Goods sold, to be paid for by bills at three months. The drawers and acceptors becoming bankrupts before the bills were due, the vendors having received dividends under their commissions, entitled to prove under a commission against the vendees who had not indorsed the bills, the deficiency as a debt: till that shall be ascertained a claim and dividend reserved for the whole. The Lord Chancellor said, I take it to be now clearly settled, that if there is an antecedent debt, and a bill is taken without taking an indorsement, which bill turns out to be bad, the demand for the antecedent debt may be resorted to. It has been held, that if there is no antecedent debt, and A. carries a bill to B. to be discounted, and B. does not take A.'s name upon the bill, if it is dishonoured there is no demand, for there was no relation between the parties except that transaction, and the circumstance of not taking the name upon the bill, is evidence of a purchase of the bill. In a sale of goods the law implies a contract that those goods shall be paid for. It is competent to the party to agree that the payment shall be by a particular bill. In this instance it would be extremely difficult to persuade a jury, under the direction of a judge, to say an agreement to pay by bills, was satisfied by giving bills, whether good or bad. The bills were only a mode of paying the debt of £3000. If they are not paid, the original debt, arising out of the contract for goods sold and delivered, remains. It is clear, the creditor still holding the bills, cannot resort to that original contract. In general cases, where the bill is not paid, if there is no bankruptcy, the creditor must come immediately upon the bill dishonoured, saying, he cannot procure payment, and desiring to have payment; and then he might maintain an action for goods sold and delivered. There may be cases in which he may have received part of the money without involving the difficulty from giving time as to the rest of it; as, if part was paid before it was due; in that case, if no time was given for payment of the residue, an action for goods sold and delivered would lie for the residue.

¹ *Jones and another v. Ryde and another*, 1 Marsh. 157, 9.—5 Taunt. 488. S. C. Assumpsit for £1000 for money had and received; at the trial the plaintiffs had a verdict, subject to the opinion of the court, on the following case: The defendants, bill brokers, were possessed of a navy bill, purporting to be for £1884. 16s. 10d. which the plaintiffs, also bill brokers, discounted for them at their request. The plaintiffs afterwards discounted it with Mr. Williams, who presented it for payment. The date and sum in the bill had been altered since it was issued, and before it came to the hands of the defendants, the bill being originally issued for £884. 16s. 10d. only. Williams received £844. 16s. 10d. from the transport-office, and the plaintiffs repaid him the £1000, and brought the present action. The court, after argument, held, that the plaintiffs were entitled to recover, and although the defendants could not be sued as indorsers (the instrument being transferrable by delivery) they were not released from the responsibility they incurred by passing an instrument which purported to be of greater value than it really was. And per Gibbs, C. J. The ground of resisting this claim is, that it was a negotiable security, without indorsement; and that when the holder of a negotiable security passes it away without indorsing it, he means not to be responsible upon it. This doctrine was fully discussed in the case of *Fenn v. Harrison*,

though a party do not indorse a bill or note, yet he may by a collateral guarantee or undertaking, become personally liable¹. V. Effect of transfer, &c.

But, as on a transfer by delivery, the assignor's name is not on the instrument, there is no privity of contract between him and any assignee, becoming such after the assignment by himself, and consequently no person but his immediate assignee can maintain an action against him, and that only on the original consideration, and not on the bill itself². And if only

3T. R. 757, and the proposition is true, but only to a certain extent. If a man pass an instrument of this kind without indorsing it, he cannot be sued as indorser, but he is not released from the responsibility which he incurs, by passing an instrument which purports to be of greater value than it really is. This question must often have occurred in the case of *bank notes*: I believe it is not disputed, but that if a man take a forged note, he is entitled to recover the amount of it from the person of whom he received it; and I cannot distinguish this from the case of a promissory note; for though one should not be answerable on the note as party to it, one should be liable for the money which had been paid on the supposition of its being worth so much. Mr. Justice Chambre. There can be no doubt in this case; the general principle is perfectly clear, that where money has been paid without a consideration, it is to be recovered back. It would be very mischievous if the doctrine contended for by the defendants could be supported, as it would very materially affect the credit of these instruments. The person who takes them, gives credit to the person who passes them to him for the amount, and if they fail, the money must be refunded. In this case, the plaintiffs, or at least Williams, who stood in their place, have done nothing but what was for the advantage of the defendants.

¹ Morris v. Stacey, Holt, C. N. P. 153. A. an agent for some manufacturers, sells to B. who likewise acted as an agent, a quantity of shoes, and receives certain bills of exchange in payment. B. being pressed to indorse them, refuses, but writes a letter to A. in which he incloses the bills, and adds, "that should they not be honoured when due, he (B.) would see them paid." Held that this was a sufficient agreement within the 4th section of the statute against frauds to bind B. to pay for the goods in default of his principal.

² Ward v. Evans, Lord Raym. 928.—In the matter of Barrington, 2 Sch. & Lef. 112.

In the matter of Barrington and Burton, bankrupts, 2 Sch. & Lef. Rep. 112. B. hands over a negotiable note for valuable consideration to G. not indorsing it, but giving a written acknowledgment on a separate paper, to be accountable for the note to G.—G. indorses the note, which, together with the written acknowledgment, comes into the hands of M. for valuable consideration, and B. and the several parties to the note, become bankrupts; M. cannot prove the note against the estate of B. the written acknowledgment not being assignable: but is entitled to have the amount made an item in the account between B. and G. and to stand in the place of the latter. The Lord Chancellor. This undertaking, though for valuable consideration, was not assignable with the note, nor can it give the holder of the note, to whom it was transferred, a right to prove under it

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one of several partners indorse his name on a bill, and get it discounted with a banker, the latter cannot sue the firm, though the proceeds of the bill were carried to the partnership account¹.

When a transfer by delivery without indorsement, is made merely by way of *sale* of the bill, as sometimes occurs²; or by way of discount and not as a security for money lent³, or where the assignee expressly agrees to take it in payment, and to run all risks⁴; he has in general no right of action whatever

against the estate of Barrington and Burton; the note does not make them debtors. They are indeed chargeable on the ground of their undertaking in account with Gray and Son; but you can make yourselves creditors to the bankrupt's estate, only by your equitable right to stand in the place of Gray and Son. To this end an account must first of all be taken, to see whether the bankrupt's estate is debtor to Gray and Son; and the most proper course would have been to petition that the assignees of Gray and Son might prove for your benefit on the estate of Barrington and Burton; if there shall appear to be a sufficient balance due by them to Gray and Son, you will be entitled to be paid £300 out of that balance. But this undertaking does not make you creditors on the estate of Burton and Barrington. It only gives you a right to have it made an item in the account between them and Gray and Son.

¹ *Emly v. Lye*, 15 East. 7.

² *Fenn v. Harrison*, 3 T. R. 757.—*Fydell v. Clark*, 1 Esp. Rep. 447. *Bank v. Newman*, 1 Ld. Raym. 442.—12 Mod. 241. and Comyns, 57. S. C.—1 Mont. 142, 149, 150.—*Ex parte Shuttleworth*, 3 Ves. jun. 368.—Cullen, 100, 1.

³ *Fenn v. Harrison*, 3 T. R. 759.—*Ex parte Shuttleworth*, 3 Ves. jun. 368.—*Fydell v. Clarke and another*, 1 Esp. Rep. 447.

In *Fenn v. Harrison*, 3 T. R. 759. Lord Kenyon said, it is extremely clear, that if the holder of a bill send it to market without indorsing his name upon it, neither morality, nor the laws of this country, will compel him to refund the money for which he sold it, if he did not know at the time that it was not a good bill. If he knew the bill to be bad, it would be like sending out a counter into circulation to impose upon the world, instead of the current coin. In this case, if the defendant had known the bill to be bad, there is no doubt that they would have been obliged to refund the money.

Ex parte Shuttleworth, 3 Ves. jun. 368. Newton gave the bankrupt before his bankruptcy cash for a bill, but refused to allow the bankrupt to indorse it, thinking the bill better without his name. He now proved the amount under the commission, and on a petition to have the debt expunged, the Chancellor granted the petition, observing that this was a sale of the bill.

Fydell v. Clark and another, 1 Esp. 447. Where bankers, in discounting a bill, give their customers bills or notes without indorsing them, which turn out to be bad, the bankers are not liable.—*S. P. Bank of England v. Newman*, 1 Lord Raym. 442.—*Emly v. Lye*, 15 East. 7. 12.

⁴ *Owenson v. Morse*, 7 T. R. 65, 6. ante, 185.—*Cooke's Bank. Law*,

against the assignor, in case the bill turns out to be of no value. But there can be no doubt, that if a man assign a bill for any sufficient consideration, knowing it to be of no value, and the assignee be not aware of the fact, the former would, in all cases, be compellable to repay the money he had received¹.

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The *obligation* of the assignor, though it is in general irrevocable, may, as has been already observed, be discharged or released by the act of the holder, in the same manner as the obligation of the drawer²; it may also be discharged by payment of the bill by any prior party³; but the merely taking another party in execution, will only discharge that person, and will not operate in favour of any other⁴.

If a party indorse a bill for the accommodation of the drawer, which is also accepted by a third person for the like accommodation, such indorser may, after he has been compelled to pay the bill, support an action thereon against the acceptor, or may prove under his commission, in case of his bankruptcy⁵. And such

Indemnity of indorser.

120.—Ex parte Shuttleworth, 3 Ves. jun. 368.—Ex parte Blackburne, 10 Ves. jun. 206.—15 East. 13.—1 Mont. 142. 149, 150.

Emly v. Lye, 15 East. 13. Per Bayley, J. if a person buy goods of another, who agrees to receive a certain bill in payment, the buyer's name not being on it, and that bill be afterwards dishonoured, the person who took it cannot recover the price of his goods from the buyer, for the bill is considered as a satisfaction. It has been so held, and I can see no difference where money, instead of goods, is given for the bill; and per Kenyon, C. J. in *Owenson v. Morse*, 7 T. R. 66.—See the cases ante, 127 to 130. in notes.

¹ Anonymous, 12 Mod. 517.—Fenn v. Harrison, 3 T. R. 759.—Poppley v. Ashley, Holt, 121.—Bayl. 167, 8.

² Synderbottom v. Smith, Stra. 649.—Gee v. Brown, id. 792.—ante, 136.

³ Hull v. Pitfield, 1 Wils. 46.

⁴ Hayling v. Mullhall, 2 Bla. Rep. 1235.—Macdonald v. Bovington, 4 T. R. 825.—Claxton v. Swift, 2 Show. 481. *et post*.

⁵ Houle v. Baxter, 3 East. 177. The defendant, a retail silver-smith, produced goods of Capper, a working silver-smith, and to enable him to obtain the silver for the order, accepted a bill, drawn on him by Capper; and to increase the credit of the bill Capper prevailed on the plaintiff to lend his indorsement. Capper then passed the bill to one Abud, who supplied the silver of which the goods were made, and delivered to the defendant. Before the bill became due the defendant became a bankrupt, and obtained his certificate. Plaintiff took up the bill and brought this action, and upon the trial the plaintiff had a verdict subject to the opinion of the court; and the court held

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an accommodation indorser, in case there be reasonable ground to apprehend the insolvency of his principal, has an equitable right to withhold the payment of any money which he may owe to him, until he has been indemnified against any liability on account of his indorsement, though such liability would be no defence at law to an action by the principal¹.

VI. *Consequences of the loss of a bill, &c. and what conduct the holder should thereupon pursue.*

If the holder of a foreign or inland bill of exchange, check, or note, transferrable by *mere delivery*, (which we have seen may be when the bill was originally payable to bearer, or when the first indorsement has been in blank²;) *lose* or be *robbed* of it while in his possession, and it get into the hands of a person who was not aware of the loss, for a sufficient consideration³, *previously to its being due*⁴, such person, notwithstanding he derived his interest in the instrument, from the person who found or stole it, may maintain an action against the acceptor, or other parties⁵; the original

that the bankruptcy of the defendant was a bar to the action, because the plaintiff might have proved under the commission. In *Brown and others v. Massey*, 15 East. 220. it appears to have been questioned, whether an accommodation indorser could sue an accommodation acceptor, if, at the time he so indorsed, he knew that the acceptor had received no value.

¹ *Wilkins v. Casey*, 7 T. R. 711. as observed upon by Lord Ellenborough, Ch. J. in *Willis v. Freeman*, 12 East. 659.—*Ex parte Metcalf*, 11 Ves. jun. 407.—*Madden v. Kempster*, 1 Campb. 12.

² *Ante*, 173.

³ *Solomons v. The Bank of England*, 13 East. 135.—*Paterson v. Hardacre*, 4 Taunt. 114.

⁴ *Good v. Coe*, cited in *Boehm v. Sterling*, 7 T. R. 427.—*Et ante*, 168. as to *time of transfer*.

⁵ *Sir John Lawson v. Weston*, 4 Esp. Rep. 56.—Anonymous, Lord Raym. 738.—Anonymous, 1 Salk. 126.—Anonymous, 3 Salk. 71.—*Exors, Devallar v. Herring*, 9 Mod. 47.—*Miller v. Race*, Burr. 452.—*Grant v. Vaughan*, Burr. 1516.—*Peacock v. Rhodes*, Dougl. 633.—*Hinton's case*, 2 Show. 235.

Anonymous, Lord Raym. 738. Salk. 126. 3 Salk. 71.—B. lost a bank bill payable to A. or bearer; C. found it, and assigned it for a valuable consideration to D, who got a new bill for it from the bank. Trover was then brought against D. for the first bill; but by Holt, C. J. "the action will not lie against *him*, because he took it for a valuable consideration, though it would against C. as he had no title; but payment to C. would have indemnified the bank."

Miller v. Race, 1 Burr. 452. A bank note, payable to William Tinney or bearer, was stolen out of the mail, in the night of the 11th of December, 1756, and on the 12th came to the hands of the plaintiff for a full and valuable consideration, in the usual course of his business, and

holder, who lost it, will consequently forfeit all right of action; for it may be laid down as a general principle, that whenever one of two innocent persons must suffer by the act of a third, he who has enabled such third person to occasion the loss, must sustain it¹. And if a person who has not given a consideration for a lost or stolen bill transferrable by mere delivery, present it to the drawee at the time it is due, and he pay it before he has notice of the loss or robbery, such drawee will not in general be liable to pay it over again to the real owner².

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But where it is proved on the trial that the bill or note has been lost by the real proprietor, and reasonable notice has been given to the plaintiff to prove the time and circumstances under which he received it, and the consideration which he gave for it, it will be incumbent on him to prove that he came to the possession of the instrument, *bonâ fide*, and for a sufficient consideration³. And where a banker paid a check the day be-

without any knowledge that it had been taken out of the mail; he afterwards presented it to the bank for payment, and the defendant, being one of the clerks, stopped it, upon which an action of trover was brought; and upon a case reserved upon the point, whether the plaintiff had a sufficient property in the note to entitle him to recover, the court was clear in opinion that he had, and that the action was well brought. (*Vide Lawson and others v. Weston and others*, 4 Esp. 56.)

Grant v. Vaughan, 3 Burr. 1516. Vaughan gave Bicknell a draft upon his banker, payable to Ship Fortune or bearer; Bicknell lost it, and the plaintiff afterwards took it, *bonâ fide*, in the course of trade, and paid a valuable consideration for it. The banker refused to pay it, upon which the plaintiff brought this action against Vaughan; Lord Mansfield left it to the jury to consider, first, whether the plaintiff came to the possession of the bill fairly, and *bonâ fide*; and, secondly, whether such draft was, in fact and practice, negotiable, and the jury found for the defendant: but upon an application for a new trial, and cause shewn against it, the court was clear that the second point ought not to have been left to the jury, because it was clear that such drafts were negotiable, and if the jury thought the plaintiff took the note fairly, and *bonâ fide*, of which there appeared to be no doubt, he was entitled to recover. A new trial was accordingly granted, in which the plaintiff recovered the money. *Peacock v. Rhodes*, Dougl. 611, 633.

¹ Per Ashhurst, J. in *Lickbarrow v. Mason*, 2 T. R. 70.

² Post.—Poth. pl. 168, 169.

³ *Paterson v. Hardacre*, 4 Taunt. 114. Where a bill has been lost or fraudulently or feloniously obtained from the defendant, the holder who sues must prove that he came to the bill upon good considera-

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fore it bore date, which had been lost by the payee, it was held that he was liable to repay the amount to the loser, it being proved to be contrary to the usual course of business to pay drafts before the day on which they are dated¹. So where a banker after notice discounted a bill drawn on a customer, and by the acceptance made payable at his bank after it had been lost by the holder, and afterwards debited his customer with the amount of the bill, wrote a discharge on it, and delivered it up to the customer as the banker's voucher of his account, it was held that the banker was thereby guilty of a conversion, for which the loser might sue him in trover².

When a bill is assignable only by *indorsement*, as no interest in it can be conveyed otherwise than by that act, any person getting possession of it by a forged indorsement will not acquire any interest in it, although he was not aware of the forgery; and consequently the original holder in such case may, when he has regained possession of the bill, recover against the acceptor and drawer although the acceptor may have paid the bill; and if the person attempting to derive an interest under such indorsement, sue the acceptor, he will be

tion. But the defendant will not be permitted to object to the want of such proof unless he has given the plaintiff reasonable previous notice, that he may come to trial prepared to prove his consideration.

Solomons v. Bank of England, 13 East. 135.—1 Rose, 99. S. C. The holder of a bank note is *prima facie* entitled to prompt payment of it, and cannot be affected by the previous fraud of any former holder in obtaining it, unless evidence be given to bring it home to his privity. But where a bank note for £500, had been fraudulently obtained by some person unknown, and on its being presented for payment some time afterwards by an agent of a foreign principal, information was given of the fraud, and the principal was desired to inform the bank how he came by it; but the only account he would give of it was, that he had received it in payment of goods from a man dressed in such a way, of whom he knew nothing; and it was further proved, that bank notes of so large a value were not usually circulated in that foreign country; this was held to be sufficient evidence to be left to a jury, of a principal's privity to the original fraud, in an action of trover brought by his agent, to recover it from the bank, who had detained it under the original owner, to whom it properly belonged. And the question was not altered by the agent, who received it on account, having, after notice, made payment for his principal, which turned the balance in favour of such agent.

¹ *Da Silva v. Fuller*, *Sittings at London*, East. 1776, Sel. Ca. 238. MSS.—Post, as to whom *payment* may be made.

² *Lovell v. Martin*, 4 Taunt. 799.

admitted to prove that the indorsement was not made by the person entitled to make it¹. It is settled, that no action can be supported against the post-master-general, for the loss of bills or bank notes stolen out of letters put into the post-office², but a deputy post-

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¹ Smith v. Chester, 1 T. R. 654.—Cheap v. Hanley, cited in Allen v. Dundas, 3 T. R. 127.—Mead v. Young, 4 T. R. 28. Ante, 144, n. 7. Gibson v. Minet, 1 Hen. Bla. 607.

Cheap and another v. Hanley and Drummond, cited 3 T. R. 127. In this case, tried before Buller, J. it appeared that the defendants, who had a house in America as well as in London, drew two bills of exchange there, the first and second of the same tenor and date, on their house here, payable to the plaintiffs; one of them being lost, came into the hands of a third person, who forged an indorsement of the payees, and received the amount of it from the defendants here, and afterwards the real payees brought their action upon the other bill and recovered.

Aaron Smith and another, assignees of Bagnall and Hand v. Shepperd, London, post, Hil. Term, 16 Geo. 3. The defendant was indebted to Bagnall and Hand, the bankrupts, in thirty pounds, for goods sold and delivered October, 1774. Comberstall, the bankrupts' servant, brought a bill of parcels in same hand-writing that all their former bills had been, and fraudulently said his master was in want of cash, and desired he would accept a bill of exchange, which C. immediately drew, signed with his own name, payable to Bagnall and Hand, or order, and gave a receipt on the bill of parcels. The defendant accepted the bill, and C. afterwards carried it away. The bill was brought to the defendant by Spencer, who had it payment for goods. The names of Bagnall and Hand were indorsed on the bill, and defendant paid it; but that indorsement was a forgery. It was the bankrupts' practice to deliver in their bills at Christmas; but at Christmas, after this transaction, no bill was delivered to defendant. No evidence appeared in whose hand-writing the indorsement was, but it did not appear to be like the bankrupts' or Comberstall's. Lord Mansfield said, "Each party is innocent: the question is, on whom the loss must fall? it should be on him who is most in fault. It is admitted that Comberstall used to receive money, but not draw bills. There is a bill that does not trust Comberstall at all, for it is to pay to the order of the bankrupts; in this case, if he had been used to draw bills, that would not vary the case, because it is not pretended that the indorsement was by Comberstall; then he that takes a forged bill must abide by the consequence; for the man whose name is forged knows nothing of it. If a bill payable to bearer be lost, and found by another person in the street, who carries it to a banker who drew it, and he pays, it is a good payment, for it is the owner's fault that he lost it. In this case, the name of Bagnall and Hand is forged; it could not be paid without their hand, and defendant has been negligent in inquiries whether it was their hand or not. The ground which defendant relies on is, that the bill was not delivered at Christmas, as usual; but that is of no weight, because it had been delivered before in October."—Verdict for plaintiff. MSS. of Mr. Serjeant Bond, in Sel. Ca. 245.

² Lane v. Cotton, 1 Salk. 17.—Whitfield v. Lord Le Despencer, Cowp. 754.—Lane v. Cotton, 1 Salk. 17. Case against the post-master general to recover some exchequer bills taken out of a letter delivered at the post-office, in London. Turton, Gould, and Powys, Justices,

VI. Of the loss of master may be sued for neglect in delivering letters in bills, &c. due time¹.

Hence it is obvious that the holder of a bill, particularly when transferrable by mere delivery, should, in case of loss, immediately give notice thereof to the acceptor, and all the antecedent parties²: and when the bill is transferrable by mere delivery, should also

(Holt, C. J. diss.) held that the action would not lie. See also *Whitfield v. Lord Le Despencer*, Cowp. 754, in which it was held, that case does not lie against the post-master general, for a bank note stolen by one of the sorters out of a letter delivered into the post-office; and Lord Mansfield said, "As to an action on the case lying against the party really offending, there can be no doubt of it; for whoever does an act by which another person receives an injury, is liable in an action for the injury sustained. If the man who receives a penny to carry the letters to the post-office, loses any of them, he is answerable; so is the sorter in the business of his department. So is the post-master for any default of his own. Here, no personal neglect is imputed to the defendants, nor is the action brought on that ground; but for a *constructive* negligence only, by the act of their servants. In order to succeed therefore it must be shewn, that it is a loss to be supported by the post-master, which it certainly is not. As to the argument that has been drawn from the salary which the defendants enjoy, in a matter of revenue and police, under the authority of an act of parliament, the salary annexed to the office, is for no other consideration than the trouble of executing it. The case of the post-master, therefore, is in no circumstance whatever, similar to that of a common-carrier; but he is like all other public officers, such as the lord's commissioners of the treasury, the commissioners of the customs and excise, the auditors of the exchequer, &c. who were never thought liable for any negligence or misconduct of the inferior officers in their several departments.

Thus then the question stood in the year 1699. In that year a solemn judgment was given, that an action on the case would *not* lie against the post-master general, for a loss in the office by the negligence or fault of his servant. The nation understood it to be a judgment: and therefore it makes no difference, if what has been thrown out were true, and the writ of error was stopped in the way that has been mentioned. For the bar have taken notice of it as a judgment; the parliament and the people have taken notice of it; every man who has sent a letter since has taken notice of it; many acts of parliament for the regulation and improvement of the post office, and other purposes relative to it, have passed since, which by their silence have recognized it. The mail has been robbed a hundred times since, and no action whatever has been brought. What have merchants done since and continue to do at this day, as a caution and security against a loss? They cut their bills and notes into two or three parts, and send them at different times: one, by this day's post, the other, by the next. This shews the sense of mankind as to their remedy. If there could have been any doubt therefore before the determination of *Lane v. Cotton*, the solemn judgment in that case having stood uncontroverted ever since, puts the matter beyond dispute. Therefore, we are all clearly of opinion the action will not lie. Per cur. Judgment for the defendants.

¹ *Rowning v. Goodchild*, 3 Wils. 443.—2 Bla. Rep. 906,—5 Burr. 2711.

² Poth. pl. 132.

give public notice of the loss, in order to prevent any person from taking it¹; and which indeed will not be available unless it be brought home to the knowledge of the party taking it². It is incumbent also on the party who has thus lost the bill, even though it has been destroyed, to make application at the time it is due, for payment, and to give notice to all the parties of the refusal of the drawee to pay the same, for otherwise he will lose his remedy against the drawee and indorsers³.

VI. Of the loss of bills, &c.

It is said by Marius⁴, that the holder of a bill which has been lost, should, in the presence of a notary and two witnesses, acquaint the acceptor with the loss, and signify to him that at his peril he pay it to none but himself or his order; and the same writer says, that no person should refuse to pay a bill which he has accepted, to the loser, on the ground of its having been lost, if he have sufficient security and indemnification offered to him; and that if he do, he will be liable to make good all loss, re-exchange, and charges⁵.

We have already seen, that the fraudulent misapplication by agents of bills and notes entrusted to their care, is punishable by a recent statute⁶. Other statutes have provided, that to steal or take by robbery any bills, bank notes, or promissory notes, shall be felony⁷.

In France, as long ago as the beginning of the last century, the drawer of a bill was compellable to give the holder of it another of the same tenor, in case he lost the original bill; but in this country no such general rule obtains in the case of *inland* bills. There

¹ Beawes, pl. 179.

² Sir John Lawson v. Weston, 4 Esp. Rep. 56.—Ante, 35, 47, 8.

³ Thackray v. Blackett, 3 Campb. 164.

⁴ Page 77.

⁵ Mar. 10.—Beawes, pl. 182, 185.—Tercese v. Geray, Finch's Rep. 301.—Vin. Ab. tit. Bills, R.

⁶ Ante, 147.

⁷ See stat. 3 Geo. 2. c. 25. s. 3.—9 Geo. 2. c. 18. and see the cases and precedents relative to this offence, 3 Chitty's Crim. Law. 928, 929, 967 to 970.—3 M. & S. 539.—2 Leach, 1103.

VI. Of the loss of bills, &c. is, however, a proviso in the stat. 9 & 10 W. 3. c. 17. s. 3. by which it is enacted, "That in case any *such* inland bill shall happen to be lost or miscarried within the time before limited for the payment of the same, then the drawer of the said bill is and shall be obliged to give another bill of the same tenor with that first given; the person to whom they are delivered, giving security, if demanded, to the drawer, to indemnify him against all persons whatsoever, in case the said bills so alleged to be lost or miscarried shall be found again." It should seem, that from the word "*such*," the statute does not extend to *all* bills of exchange, but only to the particular bills therein mentioned; namely, such as are expressed to be for value received, and payable after date²; but it has been observed, that the equity of the statute would comprehend indorsements also, and that the 3 and 4 Ann. c. 9. which gives the like remedies upon notes, as were then in use on inland bills, would extend the statute of William to notes³.

It is perfectly clear, that in case of the loss of a bill, &c. whether before or after it was due, or when it is payable on demand, and might by possibility be in the hands of a *bonâ fide* holder, a *Court of Equity* has jurisdiction to enforce payment of the amount upon a sufficient indemnity being given, but not if it were not negotiable⁴; and if such indemnity has been tendered, the defendant will in general have to pay the costs in equity. In a late case, proof was allowed under a

² It is not unusual to declare, specially in assumpsit, for not giving a fresh bill; *sed quære* as to the remedy at law, post, 197, 8.

³ *Sed quære* see *Walmsley v. Child*, 1 Ves. sen. 346, 7.—*Leftly v. Mills*, 4 T. R. 170.—2 Campb. 215.

⁴ Bayl. 52.—*Powell v. Monnier*, 1 Atk. 613.—Kyd, 152.—*Walmsley v. Child*, 1 Ves. sen. 346, 7. where these acts are observed upon, 2 Campb. 215. in notes.

⁵ *Walmsley v. Child*, 1 Ves. sen. 338, 344.—*Toulmin v. Price*, 5 Ves. jun. 238.—*Tercese v. Geray*, Finch's Rep. 301. Vin. Ab. Bills, R.—*Ex parte Greenway*, 6 Ves. jun. 812.—*Mossop v. Eadon*, 16 Ves. jun. 430. As to the mode of proceeding in equity, 1 Ves. 341.—5 Ves. jun. 338.—6 Ves. jun. 812.

commission of bankrupt in respect of a bill alleged to be lost; but the most extensive indemnity was required to be given, and to be settled by the commissioners, though the loss took place after the bill had been protested¹.

VI. Of the loss of bills, &c.

When the defendant himself wrongfully withholds the bill or note, it is clear he may be sued at law².

But in general no *action at law* can be supported against a party to a bill of exchange, note, or check, indorsed in blank, so as to be transferrable to a bona fide holder, and lost *before or on the day it is due*, although a bond of indemnity has been tendered to the defendant³; and if the bill be transferrable by de-

¹ Ex parte Greenway, 6 Ves. jun. 812.

² Smith v. M'Clure, 5 East. 477.—Pierson v. Hutchinson, 2 Campb. 212.—Infra, note 3.—6 Esp. 126. S. C.

³ Pierson v. Hutchinson, 2 Campb. 211.—6 Esp. Rep. 126. S. C.—Powell v. Roach, 6 Esp. Rep. 76.—Bayl. 169.—Selwyn Ni. Pri. 4th edit. 328.

Pierson v. Hutchinson, 2 Campb. 211.—6 Esp. Rep. 126. S. C.—This was an action by the indorsee against the acceptor of a bill of exchange. The attorney-general, in opening the plaintiff's case, stated that he should not be able to produce the bill, as it had been lost; but he should prove, that before the action was brought, the defendant had been regularly called upon for payment, and had been offered an unexceptionable indemnity. According to the usage of merchants, he was thereupon bound to honour his acceptance in the same manner as if the bill had still remained in the plaintiff's hands, and had been actually presented to him in the usual form. It is laid down by Marius, (p. 19. fol. ed.) that when an accepted bill is lost, the party to whom it is payable should notify this to the acceptor; "and when the bill falls due, and the time is come for him to go for the money, the party which had accepted the bill is not freed from present payment of the money, because the bill is lost; for though the accepted bill be lost, yet he that accepted it is not: Neither must the acceptor think this to be a sufficient answer for him to say, *shew me my accepted bill and I will pay you*, and such like flims, merely to make use of the money a little longer time. He may, in case of obstinacy, be sued at law for the money, without the accepted bill, and be forced to the payment thereof with costs and damages; and therefore merely by reason of the loss of the accepted bill, he can have no just cause or plea to detain the money beyond the just time from the right party who should receive the same." Marius then goes on to say, that for this purpose the party entitled to payment, has only to give bond or other reasonable writing to the content and good liking of the party that did accept the bill, and such as in reason he cannot refuse, engaging to save him harmless from the accepted bill which is lost, and to discharge him from the sum therein mentioned, against the drawer and all others in due form.—Therefore, if it should appear in the present case, that the indemnity offered was such as in reason the defendant could not refuse, the pro-

VI. Of the loss of livery; it should seem, that even if it were lost after it became due, and after action brought, the same rule prevails¹; nor is the defendant liable to be sued on the bills, &c.

duction of the bill would be dispensed with, and the acceptance being proved by secondary evidence, the plaintiff would be entitled to a verdict. Lord Ellenborough.—If the bill were proved to be destroyed, I should feel no difficulty in receiving evidence of its contents, and directing the jury to find for the plaintiff. Even on a trial for forgery, the destruction of the instrument charged by the indictment to be forged, is no bar to the proceedings. I remember a case before Mr. Justice Buller, where the prisoner had destroyed a bank note he was accused of having forged, by swallowing it. He was acquitted on the merits; but the learned judge who presided held, that he might have been convicted without the production of the bank note, and this doctrine was approved of by the whole profession. Here, however, the instrument is not destroyed. It is lost after being indorsed by the payee. It may now be in the hands of a *bonâ fide* indorsee for value, who might maintain an action upon it against the defendant. This brings it to the indemnity. But whether an indemnity be sufficient or insufficient, is a question of which a court of law cannot judge. There are *dicta* to be sure, that upon the offer of an indemnity the indorsee of a lost bill may recover at law; but these are so contrary to the principles on which our judicial system rests, that I cannot venture to proceed upon them. Since the plaintiff can neither produce the bill nor prove that it is destroyed, he must resort to a court of equity for relief. The attorney-general said, they could shew that the bill had been discounted for the defendant's accommodation, and that the money had come into his hands; but Lord Ellenborough observed, that would not alter the case; for if the plaintiff were allowed to recover on the money counts, the defendant might still be compelled to pay the same sum a second time to a *bonâ fide* holder of the bill. Plaintiff nonsuited.

Mayor and others v. Johnson and another, 3 Campb. 324. A traveller received a country bank note payable to *bearer*, in a provincial town, which he cut in two, and sent the halves on different days by the post, addressed to his employers in London, one of these was stolen from the mail coach, and they received the other. It was held, that under these circumstances they could not maintain an action against the makers² of the note, on producing that half of it which reached them safely. Lord Ellenborough said, I am of opinion, that this action cannot be maintained. It is usual and proper to pay upon an indemnity, but payment can be enforced at law, only by the production of an entire note, or by proof that the instrument or the part of it which is wanting has been actually destroyed; the half of this note, taken from the Leeds mail, may have immediately got into the hands of a *bonâ fide* holder for value, and he would have as good a right of suit upon that, as the plaintiffs upon the other half which reached them; but the maker of a promissory note cannot be liable in respect of it to two parties at the same time. Plaintiffs nonsuited.

N. B. This case is distinguishable from that of Mossop v. Eadon, 16 Ves. jun. 430. post, 201, because, in that case, the notes were not payable to order or negotiable, whereas, in the above case, they were payable to bearer.

¹ Poole v. Smith, 1 Holt's C. N. P. 144. In an action by the indorsee of a bill of exchange, against the acceptor; it appeared that after action brought, and notice of trial, the bill, which was indorsed in blank, had been lost, and it was held, that although the

consideration of the bill¹; and even an express promise without any new consideration cannot be enforced at law²; though if there be a new consideration for the

VI. Of the loss of bills, &c.

bill had been drawn more than six years, the plaintiff was not entitled to recover, without producing it at the trial; and per Gibbs, C. J., upon the ground of the non-production of the bill, I think I am called upon to nonsuit the plaintiff; the rule is an extremely salutary one, and ought not to be relaxed. See also *Powell v. Roach and others*, 6 Esp. Rep. 76. S. P.

But in *Brown and others v. Messiter*, 3 M. & S. 281, the court referred it to the master to see what was due for principal and interest upon a bill of exchange, upon the production of a copy of the bill verified by affidavit of the plaintiff's attorney, the original having been stolen out of his pocket, and no tidings of it gained.

¹ *Bevan v. Hill*, 2 Campb. 381. A check given for stock sold, was lost by the vendor in going home from the stock exchange; the purchaser was immediately informed of this fact, but refused to pay without an indemnity; four months after, the bankers, on whom the check was drawn, stopped payment, with sufficient money to answer it of the drawer's in their hands; held, that under these circumstances, an action would not lie for the price of the stock. Lord Ellenborough said, it is certainly possible, that this check may have got into the hands of a person who might maintain an action upon it. The very day it was lost it might have been passed for value to a bona fide holder without notice; I therefore think the defendant was entitled to an indemnity; he could not, without this, have safely withdrawn the money from Walpole and Co. before their bankruptcy; he then ceased to be liable upon the check, but the money was gone; besides, the bankruptcy of Walpole and Co. may not be sustainable, and the defendant is not to be exposed to the risk of the commission being superseded. Plaintiff nonsuited.

Dangerfield v. Wilby, 4 Esp. Rep. 159. Where a promissory note has been given for money due by the defendant to the plaintiff, who declares on it, together with the money counts, he must prove the note lost or destroyed before he can have recourse to the money counts if it appears that the money so claimed was that for which the note was given. Lord Ellenborough said, he was of opinion, the plaintiff was not entitled to go into the consideration of the note, for, as the note, for any thing that appeared in evidence, was in existence, it might be still in circulation, and the defendant be liable to be called upon to pay it, so that he might be subjected twice to the payment of the same demand; it was therefore incumbent on him to shew it to be lost, so that the defendant should not be again subjected to the payment of it. As to any demand therefore, on account of the note, he thought the plaintiff not entitled to recover. The plaintiff was nonsuited; and see *Pierson v. Hutchinson*, ante, 197, n. 3.

² *Davis v. Dodd*, 4 Taunt. 602. The plaintiff declared upon a bill of exchange for £96. 9s. drawn by Allen, to his own order, and accepted by the defendant, and indorsed by Allen to the plaintiff. There were also the usual money counts. Upon the trial, at Maidstone, Summer Assizes, 1812, before Lord Ellenborough, C. J. it was proved that the witness had lost the bill out of his pocket, whereupon when the bill became due, he applied to the defendant, stating the circumstance and requesting him to pay the bill, which, until the time of action, had never been presented for payment by any other person; and defendant repeatedly and expressly promised to pay it. Lord

VI. Of the loss of promise, as the executing of a bond of indemnity to the defendant, he may be sued thereon¹.
bills, &c.

If, however, it can be proved that the bill has been *destroyed*, the party who was the holder may recover at law²; so if the bill was not negotiable³, or has *not* been indorsed, or if it was only *specially indorsed*, the party who lost it may proceed by action on such bill, and secondary evidence of the contents may be admitted⁴.

In *Walmsley v. Child*⁵, it seems to have been considered, that a party who had lost a bill payable on

Ellenborough was of opinion, that as the plaintiff had not presented the bill for payment to the defendant, and as the bill was not produced at the trial, the plaintiff could not recover in this action, and directed a nonsuit. Best, serjeant, now moved to set aside the nonsuit, and have a new trial; he contended that the express promise to pay the bill was upheld by the consideration of the moral obligation to which the defendant was subject to pay the sum due on his acceptance. The court denied that there was any moral obligation on the defendant to pay this sum to the plaintiff, who, by his negligence, had exposed the defendant to the danger of being compelled to pay the bill when produced in the hands of another holder. It was quite clear that the plaintiff could not recover in this action, if he could recover at all upon this promise, which they much doubted; it must be in an action upon the special undertaking; the party might have proceeded to enforce the giving of a new bill under the statute, and that seemed to be his only course. The promise contained in the bill is the equivalent given for the consideration paid for the bill, and no new consideration had been subsequently paid to sustain this new promise, which was therefore nudum pactum, and could not be enforced. Rule refused.

¹ *Williams v. Clements*, 1 Taunt. 523. Special assumpsit, alleging that the defendant was indebted on a bill of exchange, and that plaintiff having lost the same, had, at the request of the defendant, given him a bond acknowledging payment and conditioned to indemnify him against the bill, in consideration whereof, defendant undertook to pay the money on request. On motion in arrest of judgment it was held, that such count, stating such new consideration of executing the bond was sufficient.

² *Pierson v. Hutchinson*, 2 Campb. 212.—6 Esp. Rep. 126. S. C.—Ante, 197. note 3.—Bayl. 169.

³ *Mossop v. Eadon*, 16 Ves. jun. 430. post, 201.

⁴ *Long v. Bailie*, 2 Campb. 214, in note.—*Mossop v. Eadon*, 16 Ves. jun. 430. 434. post, 201.—Bayl. 169.—Selw. N. Pri. 4th edit. 328.

Long v. Bailie, Guildhall, 13th December, 1805, coram Lord Ellenborough, 2 Campb. 214. This was an action against the acceptor of a bill of exchange, payable to the order of the drawer, and by him *specially indorsed* to the plaintiff. It was proved that a person took the bill to have it compared with the affidavit to hold to bail; that a copy was then taken, and the bill was afterwards stolen from such person. The correctness of this copy and the special indorsement was proved, and the plaintiff had a verdict.

⁵ *Walmsley v. Child*, 1 Ves. sen. 341, &c.

demand might proceed at law; and in *Hart v. King*¹, where a bill of exchange was protested, and afterwards lost, the plaintiff recovered, but it does not appear in what character the plaintiff sued, and it is probable that the bill had never been indorsed. In *ex parte Greenway*², Lord Chancellor Eldon said, “that when he was Chief Justice he tried an action in the Common Pleas, upon a bill alleged to be lost, which had been previously indorsed by the payee, an indemnity was offered by bond, but that he nonsuited the plaintiff; that the counsel objected strongly upon the offer of indemnity, and it came before the court on a motion for a new trial, and there was a long discussion on the nature of these indemnities in a court of law; that the court had not come to a decision upon it when he left them, and he did not know the result. But that he never could understand by what authority courts of law compelled parties to take the indemnity³.”

VI. Of the loss of bills, &c.

But in the case of *Mossop v. Eadon*⁴, where a bill was filed in equity for payment of a promissory note which had been cut in two parts, one of which was produced and the other alleged to be lost, and offering an indemnity the bill was dismissed on two grounds; the first, that only half the bill was lost, and secondly, that it was not payable to order, and consequently an action at law was sustainable; and it being urged that the jurisdiction of the court of equity is not destroyed by the courts of law assuming a jurisdiction in such cases, the Master of the Rolls said, “It is very clear that an action would have laid upon the note had the loss been proved. The single question is, whether the

¹ *Hart v. King*, 12 Mod. 310.—Holt, 118. S. C.—*Dehors v. Harriot*, 1 Show. 163.

² *Ex parte Greenway*, 6 Ves. jun. 812.

³ See also *Toulmin v. Price*, 5 Ves. jun. 238.—*Bromley v. Holland*, 7 Ves. 19, 20. 249.

⁴ 16 Ves. jun. 430. Note, in that case the bill of exchange was not payable to order, and consequently not negotiable, which makes this case distinguishable from that of *Mayor v. Johnson*, 3 Campb. 325.

VI. Of the loss of indemnity you offer is not a ground for coming here? bills, &c.

The court of law could not take notice of it and give a conditional judgment; but equity gives that relief at the same time that it orders payment of the money. The other half of the note may be in your possession; therefore it is fit that you should indemnify them against the possibility, that the two parts may be brought together and passed into another hand." Upon a further hearing the counsel for the plaintiff insisted, that the mere loss of the instrument gives the court of equity jurisdiction, and that it does not depend on the right to require an indemnity, observing that there was no distinction whether a note was negotiable or not. But the Master of the Rolls said, "This argument is in direct contradiction to that of Lord Hardwicke, who, in the case of *Walmsley v. Child*, assumes that this court has no jurisdiction, except for the purpose of ordering an indemnity where indemnity is necessary. I am unwilling to turn the plaintiff round, thinking the merits are with him; but at the same time I am afraid of breaking in upon the rules established as to the jurisdiction of the courts, that, where a party can recover at law, he ought not to come into equity."

When a bill, &c. has been lost *before it was due*, unless the party proceed under the statute 8 & 9 W. 3. c. 17. s. 3. it may be proper that he should be confined to a Court of Equity for relief; for as a transfer before a bill is due, though made by a person not entitled thereto, may give a bona fide holder a right of action thereon; it is but just that the parties called upon to pay should be previously sufficiently indemnified, and the sufficiency of an indemnity can be more correctly ascertained in a Court of Equity than at Law¹; but where a bill has been lost *after* it became due, and that fact be clearly proved, there seems to be no reason

¹ Ex parte Greenway, 6 Ves. jun. 812.—*Pierson v. Hutchinson*, 2 Campb. 212.—6 Esp. Rep. 126. S. C. ante, 193. n. 3.

why the party who lost it should not be permitted to proceed at law, and indeed without offering an indemnity, inasmuch as the law itself would in such case indemnify all the parties to the bill from any liability to a person who became holder of it after it was due; for, as we have already seen¹, a person taking a bill by transfer after it becomes due, holds it subject to all the objections which affected it in the hands of the party who first became wrongfully possessed of it, or who tortiously transferred it, consequently he could not sustain an action thereon against any of the parties to the bill; and there is an additional reason why this should obtain as to the drawer and indorsers of a bill, and the indorsers of a note, namely, that they must have been discharged from liability to any subsequent holder, by the want of notice from such holder of the default in payment by the drawee².

It is said³ that if one part of a *foreign* bill of exchange, drawn in sets, be lost by the *drawee*, or be by his mistake given to a wrong person, or if by any other means the holder cannot have a return of the bill, either accepted or not accepted, the drawee must give to the holder or to his order a promissory note for payment of the amount of the bill on the day it becomes due, on delivery of the second part if it arrive in time, or if not, upon the note, and if the acceptor refuse to give the note, the holder must immediately protest for non-acceptance, and when due, must demand the money, though he have neither note nor bill, and if payment be refused, a protest must be regularly made for non-payment. In all cases if a bill of exchange be lost, and a new bill cannot be had of the drawer, a protest may be made on a copy⁴.

Where a creditor directs his debtor to remit him, by post, the money due to him by a bill of exchange,

¹ See *Tinson v. Francis*, 1 Campb. 19. ante, 166.

² Post, as to notice of non-payment.

³ *Beaves*, pl. 188.—Mar. 121.—Bul. Nj. Pri. 271,

⁴ *Dehors v. Harriot*, 1 Show. 163. post.

VI. Of the loss of bills, &c.

cash, note, &c. or where it is the usual way of paying such debt, if the bill be lost the debtor will be discharged¹; but where the defendant, in discharge of a debt which he owed to the plaintiff, delivered a letter, containing the bills which were lost, to a bellman in the street, it was decided that he was not discharged from liability to pay the debt, because it was incumbent on him to have delivered the letter at the General Post-office, or at least at a receiving-house appointed by that office².

¹ Warwick v. Noakes, Peake; 67.

² Hawkins v. Rutt, Peake, 186; and see Parker v. Gordon, 7 East, 385.

CHAPTER V.*

OF PRESENTMENT OF A BILL FOR ACCEPTANCE—ACCEPTANCE—NON-ACCEPTANCE—CONDUCT WHICH THE HOLDER SHOULD THEREUPON PURSUE; AND OF ACCEPTANCE SUPRA PROTEST.

ON delivery of a bill of exchange to the payee, or any other person who becomes holder by transfer, it is in some cases necessary, and in all advisable, to present it for acceptance. On such presentment, the drawee either complies with the drawer's request by accepting the bill, or refuses to do so: in which latter case it is in general incumbent on the holder to give notice to the various other persons who became parties to the bill antecedently to himself; after which any person not originally a party, may accept it *supra protest* for the honour of the drawer or indorsers; and in some cases the holder may protest a bill for better security. In treating of each of these matters in their natural order, it will be necessary, to consider, *First*, when a presentment for acceptance is necessary, and at what time, and in what manner it must be made: *Secondly*, by whom, at what time, and in what manner, an acceptance may be made, and the obligation it imposes on the acceptor: *Thirdly*, the conduct which the holder must pursue, in case of a refusal to accept: *Fourthly*, the protest for better security, and *Lastly*, of acceptances *supra protest*.

* As checks, promissory notes, and bills, when payable on demand, are never presented for acceptance, or accepted, the observations in this chapter in regard to presentment for acceptance, will in general be inapplicable to those instruments.

Sect. 1.—Of presentment for acceptance; and 1st, when necessary.

When a bill is drawn payable within a specified time *after sight*, it is *necessary*, in order to fix the period when it is to be paid, to *present* it to the drawee *for acceptance*¹; but in other cases it is not incumbent on the holder to present the bill before it is due²; and in Bristol, it is said, that the practice is not to present for acceptance or to accept³. It is however certainly most advisable in all cases to endeavour to get the bill accepted⁴, as by that means the holder obtains the additional security of the drawee, and the bill consequently becomes more negotiable⁵: and if the drawee refuse to accept, the drawer and indorser may immediately be sued⁶. And it is said, that it is incumbent on the bearer of a bill, when he is but the mere agent of the person entitled to it, and on the payee, when he is directed by the drawer to do so, to present it for acceptance as soon as possible, because it is only by acceptance that the person on whom the bill is drawn becomes debtor, and responsible to the holder; and if

¹ Per Eyre, C. J. in *Muilman v. D'Eguino*, 2 Hen. Bla. 565. but if a bill be on an insufficient stamp, no presentment seems necessary, ante, 75.

² Per Gibbs, C. J. in *O'Keefe v. Dunn*, 1 Marsh. 616, 621.—6 Taunt. 305. S. C. and ante, 162, n. 1.—Bayl. 100.—1 Selw. 4th ed. 310, 1. *Goodall v. Dofley*, 1 T. R. 718.—*Blesard v. Hirst*, Burr. 2670. Per Lord Ellenborough, in *Orr v. Maginnis*, 7 East. 362.—acc. Mar. 46. Com. Dig. tit. Merchant, F. 6, *semb. contra*.

The 7th Section of the 3d and 4th Anne, c. 9. enacts, that if the holder do not take his *due course* to obtain *payment* by endeavouring to get the bill *accepted* and paid, and make his protest for *non-acceptance* or non-payment, the taking the bill shall be considered a *payment*; but the statute does not appear to require a presentment for acceptance when it would be unnecessary at common law.

Molloy, B. 2. C. 10. sec. 16. If a bill is drawn upon a merchant in London, payable to J. S. at double usance, J. S. is not bound, in strictness of law, to procure an acceptance, but only to tender the bill when the money is due.

Beawes, pl. 266, p. 453. There is no obligation to procure acceptance of a bill payable at a day certain as the time goes on, whether accepted or not; but it is otherwise with bills payable at so many days sight. See also Marius, 12, 13.

³ *Johnson v. Collins*, 1 East. 99.

⁴ Mar. 48.—Poth. pl. 143.

⁵ Mar. 4th ed. 12.—Beawes, pl. 266.—*Claxton v. Swift*, 2 Show. 496.—Selw. Ni. Pri. 4th ed. 311.

⁶ *Bullingall v. Gloster*, 3 East. 181.—*Allan v. Morson*, 4 Campb. 115; post.

the affairs of the drawer should be deranged, an agent who has neglected to present the bill for acceptance, might be answerable in damages and interest to the person who employed him¹. If a person be holder of a bill which is not addressed to any particular individual, but is accompanied with a letter of advice, mentioning the person on whom the bill is drawn, it is said that the bill should be presented to the person mentioned in the letter of advice, who may thereupon accept the bill, and that if he refuse to do so, it may be protested for non-acceptance².

1st. When presentment for acceptance is necessary.

In cases where it would otherwise be necessary to present a bill for acceptance, the holder may, as will be seen hereafter, excuse his neglect to do so, by proving that the drawer or other person insisting on the want of it as a defence, had no effects in the hands of the drawee, or had given no consideration for the bill³.

With respect to the *time* when bills payable *after sight* should be presented for acceptance, it has been observed that the only rule which can be applied to all cases of bills of exchange, whether foreign or inland, and whether payable at sight, or at so many days after sight, or in any other manner, is, that due diligence must be used⁴; and, as the drawer may sustain a loss by the holder's keeping it any great length of time, it is advisable in all cases to present it as soon as possible⁵.

2dly, At what time presentment should be made for acceptance.

In the case of a *foreign* bill payable after sight, it has been decided, that it is no laches to put it into circulation before acceptance, and to keep it in circulation without acceptance, as long as the convenience of the successive holders requires; and it has even been laid down, that if a bill drawn at three days sight.

¹ Poth. pl. 128.—Mar. 46.

² Mar. 142, 3.

³ De Berdt v. Atkinson, 2 Hen. Bla. 336. et post.

⁴ Per Buller, J. in Muilman v. D'Eguino, 2 Hen. Bla. 569.—See also Selw. N. P. 4th ed. 310.—Bayl. 100, 1, 2.

⁵ Poth. pl. 143.

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were kept out in that way for a year, this would not be laches; and if a bill is payable in India sixty days after sight, it is not necessarily laches to omit presenting it for acceptance for twenty-six days after its arrival. But if, instead of putting it into circulation the holder were to lock it up for any length of time, this would be deemed laches¹.

¹ *Muilman v. D'Eguino*, 2 Hen. Bla. 565. In debt on bond, conditioned to pay certain bills drawn on India at sixty days after sight, in case they should be returned protested, defendant pleaded that they were not presented for acceptance within a reasonable time after the drawing. It appeared that they were drawn the 5th of March, 1793; that they were indorsed on that day by defendant to plaintiffs, who procured them for a house at Paris; that plaintiffs sent immediate advice to the house at Paris, and, on receiving their directions, on the 30th of April sent them to India, where they arrived on the 3d of October. On the 5th of October the holder wrote to the drawee, who was from home, desiring him to accept the bills, and on the 17th of October he sent an answer of refusal; some of the bills were thereupon protested the 29th of October, and the rest the 18th of November. Eyre, C. J. left the case to the jury, but told them that he thought the bills had been sent to India in time, as they were put up here for negotiation, and were therefore liable to be delayed, and that they were presented in India in time after their arrival. The jury found for the plaintiff, and on a rule to shew cause why there should not be a new trial and cause shewn, the court was satisfied with the verdict, and plaintiff had judgment. Eyre, C. J. said "it is not necessary to lay down any new rule as to bills of exchange, payable at sight, or within a given time afterwards; if it were, I should feel great anxiety not to clog the negotiation of bills circumstanced like these. It would be a very serious and difficult thing to say, that a person buying a foreign bill, in the way these were bought, should be obliged to transmit it by the first opportunity to the place of its destination. There would also be a great difficulty in saying at what time such a bill should be presented for acceptance; the courts have been very cautious in fixing any time for presenting for acceptance an inland bill, payable at a certain period after sight, and it seems to me more necessary to be cautious with respect to a foreign bill payable in that manner. I think, indeed, the holder is bound to present the bill in a reasonable time, in order that the period may commence from which the payment is to take place, but the question what is reasonable time, must depend on the particular circumstances of the case; *and it must always be for the jury to determine*, whether any laches are imputable to the plaintiff.—Per Buller, J. the only rule I know of, which can be applied to the case of bills of exchange, is, that due diligence must be used. Due diligence is the only thing to be looked at, whether the bill be foreign or inland; and whether it be payable at sight, or at so many days after, or any other manner. But I think a rule may be thus far laid down as to laches with regard to bills payable at sight or a certain time after sight, namely, that they ought to be put in circulation; and if a bill drawn at three days sight were kept out in that way for a year, I cannot say that there would be laches; but if, instead of putting it in circulation, the holder were to lock it up for any length of time, I should say that he

The holder of an *inland* bill payable after sight is not bound instantly to transmit the bill for acceptance, 2dly, At what time presentment should be made for acceptance.

would be guilty of laches, but further than this no rule can be laid down. Per Heath, J. no rule can be laid down as to the time for presenting bills payable at sight, or at a given time afterwards. In the French ordinances of 1673, in Postlethwaite and Marius, it is said, that a bill payable at sight or at will is the same thing.—See also Bayl. 100, 1. 2.

Goupy and another v. Harden and others, 7 Taunt. 159.—2 Marsh. 454.—1 Holt, C. N. P. 342. S. C. Indorsee of two bills of exchange drawn in London, 12th of May, 1815, upon Gould and Co. of Lisbon, at thirty days after sight, payable to defendants, and by them indorsed in London, and transmitted by them to the plaintiffs in Paris, and afterwards indorsed by the plaintiffs to Ricci and Sons, who further negotiated them. It was proved that the drawees paid their bills to the 30th June, 1815, but the bills were not presented to them for acceptance until the 22d August in the same year, when they were refused, and protested for non-acceptance. In this action against the defendants as such indorsers, it was objected that there had been laches in not presenting the bills for acceptance; that the bills were payable at thirty days sight. If they had been sent to Gould and Co. with due diligence, and he had refused to accept upon notice of the dishonour to the defendants, they might have recovered against the house of De Franca and Co. the drawers, who continued solvent more than two months from the date of the bills, but instead of transmitting the bills in the ordinary way to Lisbon, they are sent in general circulation, and the defendants hear nothing of the transaction till five months after the indorsement. Per Gibbs, C. J. on the trial, “The distinction is between bills payable at a certain number of days after date, and bills payable at a certain number of days after sight. In the former, the holder is bound to use all due diligence, and to present such bill at its maturity; but in the latter case, he has a right to put the bill into circulation before he presents it, and then of course it is uncertain when it will be presented to the drawee. It is to the prejudice of the holder if he delays to do it, and he loses his money and his interest.” There are dicta that it ought to be done in a reasonable time.” Verdict for the plaintiffs.

Goupy v. Harden, 7 Taunt. 162. Same case on a motion by defendant to set aside the verdict. Per Gibbs, C. J. “If these bills had been locked up and not sent into circulation, the case would have been widely different. I know dicta may be found, that a bill payable at sight, must be presented within a reasonable time; but this very question occurred in this court in the case of Muilman v. D'Eguino, 2 Hen. Bla. 565. Bills were sent out to India, and one question was whether they were presented for acceptance within a reasonable time in India, and it was held that they were; but the main question was, whether they were delayed too long in Europe before they were sent out.” Upon the last point, Eyre, C. J. says, “There would be great difficulty in saying at what time such a bill should be presented for acceptance. The courts have been very cautious in fixing any time for an inland bill payable at a certain period after sight, to be presented for acceptance; and it seems to me more necessary to be cautious with respect to a foreign bill payable in that manner. I do not see how the courts can lay down any precise rule on the subject.” Heath, J. says, “No rule can be laid down as to the time for presenting bills payable at sight or a given time after.” The jury have found that these bills were presented in a reasonable time, but the law prescribes only

2dly, At what time presentment should be made for acceptance.

he may put it into circulation, and if he do not circulate it, he may take a reasonable time to present it for acceptance, and a delay to present until the fourth day a bill on London, given within twenty-miles thereof, is not unreasonable¹.

that they must be presented at some time. Buller, J. is still stronger, and lays down the rule only that the bill must be put into circulation. In the present instance these bills were put into circulation, and they passed through Paris and Genoa. He proceeds to say, if they are circulated the parties are known to the world, and their credit is looked to; and if a bill, drawn at three days sight, were kept out in that way for a year, I cannot say that there would be laches." But, if instead of putting it into circulation the holder were to lock it up for any length of time, I should say that he was guilty of laches, I am therefore clearly of opinion that the parties were not guilty of laches, in putting this bill into circulation before it was presented for acceptance."

¹ *Fry v. Hill*, 7 Taunt. 397. This was an action for goods sold and delivered, and upon the trial before Parke, J. at the sittings after Michaelmas term, 1817, it appeared that the defendant having occasion to pay the plaintiff £134. 18s. for goods, early on Friday the 9th of the month, the defendants bankers on his account as to £134. 18s. (parcel) and receiving from the plaintiff the difference in cash, delivered at Windsor to the plaintiff's servant, a bill, to which the defendant was no party, drawn by themselves upon their corresponding banker in London, at one month after sight, for £140. The bill was presented for acceptance on the 13th of the same month, and the country bankers having failed on that same day, acceptance was refused. Shepherd, Solicitor-General, contended, that as well by this course of dealing which the plaintiff himself had elected, as by his laches in presenting the bill, he had made the bill his own, and was paid for the goods. The jury, however, under the direction of Parke, J. who relied on *Goupy v. Harden*, ante, 209, found a verdict for the plaintiff. The Solicitor General now moved to set it aside, and enter a nonsuit, renewing the same objections. He insisted that it was the duty of the plaintiff, receiving a bill payable at a certain time after sight, to present it for acceptance, as soon as he conveniently could: If the plaintiff had forwarded this bill for acceptance on the Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, he would thereby have enabled the defendant to withdraw his funds from his bankers hands. The necessity is more urgent to present for acceptance a bill payable after sight, than a bill payable after date, because, by deferring it, the holder protracts the period of that payment, whereby the drawer proposes to withdraw his effects from the hands of the drawee. Secondly, it was for the plaintiff's own convenience of remittance, that, instead of taking a check for the sum which the defendant proposed to pay, he had commuted it for a bill, and this was strongly evinced by his taking a bill not for £134. 18s. but for £140. paying the difference, and therein blending his own property with this payment, whereby he had rendered the bill completely his own, and was paid for his goods.

Gibbs, C. J. The defendant's argument on the first point, would go to the extent, that the holder of a bill payable after sight is bound to transmit it for acceptance, without putting it into circulation at all. But even if it were a case in which it was required to give instant notice, it has been repeatedly determined that the holder of a bill is not bound to send it on the same day that he receives it; and there

It has been said, that the question what is a reasonable time, must depend on the particular circumstances of the case; and that it must always be for the *jury* to determine, whether any laches are imputable to the plaintiff¹; and this rule appears to have been adopted in the more recent cases applicable to this subject², but from other cases it should seem that reasonable time is to be taken as a question of law dependent upon the facts³. It was said by Lord Mansfield⁴, that what is reasonable time for giving notice of the dishonour of a bill, is partly a question of fact and partly of law; it may depend in some measure on facts, such as the distance at which the parties live, the course of the post, &c.; but that whenever a rule can be laid down with respect to this reasonable time, it should be decided by the court, and adhered to for the sake of certainty⁵. Presentment should in all cases be

2dly, At what time presentment should be made for acceptance.

was no post to London on the Saturday. He might have sent it on the Sunday. But I do not go upon that ground. The holder must present a bill payable after sight in a reasonable time; but it is in the power of the holder to postpone the day of payment by postponing the day of the presentment for acceptance, and he certainly may put the bill into circulation if he will. In the recent case of *Goupy v. Harden*, the bills were put into circulation; here it does not appear what was done with the bill in the interval. The question on these bills drawn at sight certainly is left very loose by the cases. The result of the cases undoubtedly is, that which I have stated, and Eyre, C. J. says, in *Muilman v. D'Eguino*, (2 Hen. Bla. 565) that it is, under all circumstances, a question for the jury to determine whether such a bill was presented in reasonable time. Buller, J. in the same case, rather narrows that doctrine, and though he agrees, that if it were in circulation a twelvemonth, there would not be laches; yet he says, that if, instead of putting it into circulation, the holder were to lock it up for any length of time, he would be guilty of laches. Is this, therefore, a case, in which the plaintiff can be said to lock up this bill for any length of time. If we were to grant a new trial, the result would come at the last to this: *it would be a question for the jury, whether there has been a default to present a bill within a reasonable time.* That question has already been left to the jury, and they have found that the bill was presented in a reasonable time. We think, as the matter stands, it is perfectly right.—Rule refused.

¹ Per Eyre, C. J. in *Muilman v. D'Eguino*, 2 Hen. Bla. 569.—*Boehm v. Sterling*, 7 T. R. 425.

² *Muilman v. D'Eguino*, 2 Hen. Bla. 565. ante 208 n. 1. and *Fry v. Hill*, 7 Taunt. 397. ante 210. n. 1.

³ *Darbshire v. Parker*, 6 East. 12, 13.—Bayl. 100.

⁴ In *Tindal v. Brown*, 1 T. R. 167.

⁵ *Appleton v. Sweetapple*, Bayl. 65. n. c. et post. See also *Darbshire v. Parker*, 6 East. 12, 13.—*Parker v. Gordon*, 7 East. 385.

2dly. At what time presentment for acceptance should be made.

made during the usual hours of business¹; but a neglect to make a presentment at a proper time may be excused by illness, or by the circumstance of war having been declared, or by other reasonable cause or accident not attributable to misconduct of the holder².

3dly. Mode of presenting for acceptance.

The presentment should be to the drawee himself, or to his authorised agent, for otherwise the drawer or indorsers will not be chargeable³. It has been said that *ex rigore*, the drawee ought to accept the bill immediately on presentment, or refuse to do so, and he is not allowed three days for deliberation by the custom of merchants⁴; as, however, it is but reasonable that the drawee should have an opportunity, before he determines whether he will accept or not, of seeing whether he has effects of the drawer in his hands, the payee or holder usually may leave the bill with him twenty-four hours, or until the next day after the presentment, unless in the interim he accept or declare a determination not to accept⁵; but it is

¹ Mar. 112.—Parker v. Gordon, 7 East. 385.

² Vid. post, as to what will excuse the want of giving notice of non-acceptance, or not presenting for payment; and see Patience v. Townly, 2 Smith's Rep. 223, 4.

³ Check v. Roper, 5 Esp. Rep. 175. Declaration against drawer of a bill for default of acceptance. To prove the fact of the bill having been presented to Hammond for acceptance, the plaintiff proved that the bill was sent by the witness, who was called, who carried it to the house which was described to him as Hammond's house; he offered it to some person in a tan-yard, who refused to accept it; but he did not know Hammond's person, nor could he swear that the person to whom he offered the bill was he, or represented himself to be so. Lord Ellenborough said, that the allegation respecting the bill was a material one, as the drawer could only become liable on the acceptor's default, which default must be proved. That the evidence here offered proved no demand on Hammond, and was therefore insufficient, so that the plaintiff could not recover on the bill. Some evidence must be given of an application to the party first liable.

⁴ Com. Dig. tit. Merchant, F. 6.—Marius, 15, 16. and see Ham-burgh Ordinance.

⁵ Ingram v. Forster, 2 Smith's Rep. 243, 4.—Bellasis v. Hester, 1 Lord Raym. 281.—Mar. 62.—Beawes, pl. 17.—Mal. b. 3. c. 5. s. 1. Com. Dig. Merchant, F. 6.—Molloy, b. 2. c. 10. pl. 16.

Bellasis v. Hester, Lord Raym. 281. Per Treby, C. J. The party may have the whole day to view the bill, and that is allowed him by the law.

Marius, 15. No three days for acceptance—twenty-four hours for acceptance. But if the party to whom the bill of exchange is directed be a merchant well known unto you, and when the bill is pre-

said that this must not be done if the post go out in the interim ¹. 3dly, *Mode of presenting for acceptance.*

If the drawee of a bill cannot be found at the place where the bill states him to reside, and it appear that he never lived there, or has absconded, the bill is to be considered as dishonoured ²; but if he have only removed, it is incumbent on the holder to endeavour to find out to what place he has removed, and to make the presentment there ³; and he should in all cases

sent to him to accept he shall desire time to consider on it, and so shall intreat you to leave the bill of exchange with him, and to come to him the next day, (provided the post do not go away in the interim) and that then he will give you answer whether he will accept or not, herein he doth demand nothing of you but what is usually allowed between merchants known one to another; for, according to custom of merchants, the party on whom the bill is drawn, may have four and twenty hours time to consider whether he will accept the bill or not; but that time being expired, you may, in civility, demand of the party on whom your bill is drawn, the bill of exchange you left with him to be accepted, if so he pleased, if he then say that he hath not as yet accepted it, and that he would desire you to call for it some other time, or the like; the four and twenty hours being expired, it is at your choice to stay any longer or not, and you may then desire a notary to go to the dwelling-house of the party that hath the bill and demand the bill of exchange of him, accepted or not accepted, and in default of present delivery thereof, you may cause protest to be made in due form. But though this may be lawfully done, yet, notwithstanding, amongst merchants which do know one another, they do not usually proceed so strictly for acceptance, but do leave their bills with the parties to whom they are directed to be accepted, sometimes two or three days, if it be not to their prejudice, as namely, if the post do not depart in the interim; but if the post is to depart within two or three days, then it is a very reasonable thing, and which men, that know the custom of merchants, will not omit to demand their bills, accepted or not accepted, so that they may give advice thereof, by the first post after the receipt of their letters, unto their friend, who sent them the bill or who delivered the value thereof: for it is to be noted by the way."

In *Ingram v. Forster*, 2 Smith's Rep. 242. Upon the question whether more than twenty-four hours may be allowed to the drawee to determine whether he will accept, the court appear to have considered that if more than that time be given, the holder ought to inform the indorsers thereof.

¹ Mar. 62.—Com. Dig. tit. Merchant, F. 6.

² Anonymous, Lord Raym. 743.

³ *Collins v. Butler*, Stra. 1087. The maker of a note shut up his house before the note became due, and in an action against the indorser, one question was, whether the plaintiff had shewn sufficient in proving that the house was shut up? and Lee, C. J. thought not; but that he should have given in evidence that he had enquired after the drawer, or attempted to find him out. See also *Bateman v. Joseph*, 12 East. 433, in which Lord Ellenborough left it to the jury, whether the plaintiff had used due diligence to find the party's residence, that being a question of fact.

3dly, *Mode of presenting for acceptance.*

make every possible enquiry after the drawee, and if it be in his power, present the bill to him; though it will be unnecessary to attempt to make such a presentment, if the drawee has left the kingdom, in which case it will be sufficient to present the bill at his house¹, unless he have a known agent when it should be presented to him². If on presentment, it appear that the drawee is dead, the holder should enquire after his personal representative, and if he live within a reasonable distance, should present the bill to him³. When a bill is left for acceptance, and the drawee, after its remaining in his possession twenty-four hours, requires time to consider of it, and the holder grants him that time, it is at least advisable, if not necessary, to give immediate notice to the indorsers and drawer, of the particular circumstances⁴.

¹ *Cromwell v. Hynson*, 2 Esp. Rep. 211. Indorsee against the indorser of a foreign bill. When the indorsement was made, Hynson (a master of a ship) was in Jamaica, where the bill was drawn, but his residence *was at Stepney*. The bill was presented for acceptance, dishonoured, and protested, and then sent to Hynson's house for payment, with notice of non-acceptance. Hynson was not then in England, but the bill was shewn to his wife, and the circumstances stated to her. It was urged, 1st. that notice should have been sent to Jamaica. 2dly. that the demand was not sufficient. But Lord Kenyon over-ruled all the objections, and the plaintiff had a verdict.

The King *v.* The Inhabitants of Merton, 4 M. & S. 48. affords information upon this subject. In order to establish a settlement by apprenticeship, it was proved, that the indenture was only of one part, and that upon application to the pauper, who was then ill and soon afterwards died, to know what had become of it, he declared, that when the indenture was given to him he burnt it; and it was also proved, that enquiry was made of the executrix of the master, who said she knew nothing about it; and it was held that this proof was sufficient to let in proof of parol evidence of the contents of the indenture. Lord Ellenborough, C. J. The making search and using due diligence are terms applicable to some known or probable place or person, in respect of which the diligence may be used. See also Carth. 509.

² *Id.* *ibid.* *Philips v. Astling and another*, 2 Taunt. 206.

³ *Molloy*, b. 2. c. 10. s. 34.—*Poth.* pl. 146.

⁴ *Ingram v. Forster*, 2 Smith's Rep. 243, 4. ante, 213.—*Molloy*, b. 2. c. 10. pl. 16.

ACCEPTANCE may be defined to be the act by which the drawee evinces his consent and intention to comply with, and to be bound by, the request contained in a bill of exchange directed to him, or, in other words, it is an engagement to pay the bill when due¹. This engagement is made by the drawee of the bill, or by some other person, *supra protest*, to the drawer or some of the other parties, either before the bill is drawn, or afterwards, and it may be verbal or in writing; and is either absolute, partial, or conditional, and when made after the drawing of the bill, is according to or varying from its tenor. We will consider these points in their natural order.

Sect. 2. Of acceptance; and 1st, by whom it may be made.

When the holder of a foreign or inland bill presents it for acceptance, he is entitled to insist on such an acceptance by the drawee as will subject him at all events to the payment of the bill according to the tenor of it²; and consequently such drawee must have capacity to contract, and to bind himself to pay the amount of the bill, or it may be treated as dishonoured. An acceptance may, as has been already observed in a preceding chapter³, be made by an agent; but in such case, it will be incumbent on the agent, if required, to produce his authority to the holder, as, if he do not, the holder may consider the bill as dishonoured, and act accordingly⁴. And it may perhaps be doubtful, whether the holder is in any case bound to acquiesce in an acceptance by agent, as it multiplies the proof which he will be obliged to adduce, in case he should be compelled to bring an action on the bill⁵.

1st, By whom to be accepted.

There cannot be a series of acceptors or two distinct acceptors of the same bill; it must be accepted by the drawee, or, failing him, by some one for the ho

¹ Per Lawrence, J. in *Clarke v. Cock*, 4 East. 72.

² Mar. 2d edit. 22.

³ Ante, 30 to 39.

⁴ Beawes, pl. 87.

⁵ *Coore v. Callaway*, 1 Esp. Rep. 116.—*Richards v. Barton*, id. 269.

1st, By whom to be accepted.

nour of the drawer, &c.; and therefore, if a bill of exchange be accepted by the drawee, another person who, for the purpose of guaranteeing his credit, likewise accepts the bill in the usual form, is not liable as an acceptor¹; and unless the consideration of his engagement be expressed on the face of the instrument, it is questionable whether he would be liable in any form of action².

The act of one partner, as has been before shewn³, being considered as the act of both, acceptance by one for himself and partner, or in the name of the firm, will in general be a compliance with the request of the drawer; but if the bill be drawn on two, not being partners, and it be only accepted by one, it should be protested⁴. The competency of the contracting parties in general having been already stated⁵, it will be unnecessary here to make any observations relative to the capacity of the acceptor: it may, however, be observed, that if the holder find that the drawee is an infant, *feme covert*, or otherwise incapable of contracting, he may treat the bill as dishonoured.

¹ Jackson v. Hudson, 2 Campb. 447. This was an action on a bill drawn by the plaintiff on I. Irving, and accepted by him, and under his acceptance, the defendant wrote "accepted, Jos. Hudson," payable at, &c. The defendant was sued as acceptor. The plaintiff offered to prove that he had had dealings with Irving, and had refused to trust him further, unless the defendant would become his surety; and the defendant, in order to guarantee Irving's credit, wrote this acceptance on the bill. Lord Ellenborough said, that this was neither an acceptance by the drawee or by any person for the honour of the drawer; that the defendant's undertaking was collateral, and ought to have been declared on as such. See also Clark v. Blackstock, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 474. and ante, 135, n. 1. See observations on this point, Manning's Index, 63.

² Id. ibid. Wain v. Walters, 5 East. 10.—Manning's Index, 63.—Sed vide Ex parte Gardom, 15 Ves. 286.—Morris v. Stacey, Holt, C. N. P. 153.

³ Ante, 39 to 52.

⁴ Dupays v. Shepherd, Holt, 297.—Bull. Ni. Pri. 279 In the case of two joint traders, an acceptance by one will bind the other, but if ten merchants employ one factor, and he draw a bill upon them all, and one accept it, this shall only bind him and not the rest. Vide also Marius, 2d edit. 16.—Beawes, pl. 228.—Molloy, b. 2. c. 10. s. 18.—Bayl. 74.

⁵ Ante, p. 18 to 26,

A bill, on presentment for acceptance, must be accepted by the drawee within twenty-four hours, or in default thereof, it is liable to be, and indeed, should be treated as dishonoured¹. This space of time we have seen² is allowed the drawee to give him an opportunity of examining into the accounts between himself and the drawer; if, however, the drawee refuse to accept within the twenty-four hours, it is not incumbent on the holder to wait till the expiration of them, but he may instantly consider the bill as dishonoured³.

2dly, At what time it may be made.

The very term *acceptance* seems to suppose a pre-existing bill, and it appears to be now questionable, *whether in any case an acceptance can be made before the bill is drawn*, and at most the engagement can only be available in favor of a party who has, on the faith of it, given credit on the bill⁴; for, though in *Pillans v. Van Mierop*⁵, it was held, that a promise by the defendant, "to accept such bills as the plaintiff should, in about a month's time, draw upon the defendant, upon the credit of a third person," (for whose accommodation the plaintiff had already ac-

¹ Ante, 212, 13, in notes.—*Ingram v. Forster*, 2 Smith's Rep. 243, 4.

² Ante, 212, 13.

³ Ante, 212.

⁴ *Johnson v. Collings*, 1 East. 105.—*Milne v. Prest*, 4 Campb. 393. 1 Holt, C. N. P. 181.—Bayl. 79, 80.

⁵ *Pillans v. Van Mierop*, Burr. 1663. See this case observed upon in *Pierson v. Dunlop*, Cowp. 573.—*Johnson v. Collings*, 1 East. 105. *Clarke v. Cock*, 4 East. 70.

Pillans and another v. Van Mierop, Burr. 1663. White drew on the plaintiffs at Rotterdam for £800, and proposed to give them credit upon the defendant's house in London; the plaintiffs paid White's bill, and wrote to the defendants to know, "whether they would accept such bills as they (the plaintiffs) should draw in about a month upon them for £800, on White's credit." The defendants answered that they would; but White having failed before the month elapsed, the defendants wrote to the plaintiffs not to draw. The plaintiffs did, however, draw, and on the defendants' refusal to pay the bills, brought this action. The jury found a verdict for the defendants; but, upon an application for a new trial, as upon a verdict against evidence, and two arguments upon it, the court was unanimous that the defendants' letter was a virtual acceptance of such bills as the plaintiffs should draw, to the amount of £800; and the rule was made absolute. See also *Mason v. Hunt*, Dougl. 297.

ally. At what time it may be made.

cepted bills,) amounted to an acceptance; yet Lord Mansfield afterwards, in the case of *Pierson v. Dunlop*¹, qualified the doctrine laid down in the above case, and observed, that “a promise to accept such a bill, did not amount to an acceptance, unless accompanied with circumstances which might induce a third person to take the bill by indorsement;” and Lord Kenyon, C. J. in *Johnson v. Collings*², observed, that “he thought, that *the admitting a promise to accept, before the existence of the bill, to operate as an actual acceptance of it afterwards, even with the qualification last mentioned, was carrying the doctrine of implied acceptances to the utmost verge of the law; and he doubted, whether it did not even go beyond the proper boundary.*” And in the last case it was established, that a mere promise, by a debtor to his creditor, that if he would draw a bill upon him for the amount of his demand, he should then have the money, and would pay it, does not amount in law to an acceptance of the bill when drawn, and that an indorsee for a valuable consideration, between whom and the drawee no communication passed at the time of his taking the bill, can neither recover upon a count in the declaration upon the bill as accepted, nor on the general count for money had

¹ *Pierson v. Dunlop*, Cowp. 573.—*Johnson v. Collings*, 1 East. 106. n. a. S. P.—*Clarke v. Cock*, 4 East. 70.

² *Johnson v. Collings*, 1 East. 98. Collings owed Ruff £23. 10s. 6d. Ruff applied for payment, and Collings said, that if he would draw for it at two months he would pay it. Ruff drew accordingly, and indorsed the bill to the plaintiff, but did not mention to him Collings's promise. The plaintiff now sued Collings, on the ground that his promise to Ruff was virtually an acceptance. But Le Blanc, J. thought, that as it was not made to a third person, nor with circumstances which might induce a third person to take the bill, it was no acceptance, and nonsuited the plaintiff. On a rule nisi for a new trial, and cause shewn, the whole court thought it no acceptance; and Lord Kenyon thought, that the admitting a promise to accept, made before the existence of the bill, to operate as an actual acceptance of it afterwards, even though a third person was thereby induced to take the bill, was carrying the doctrine of implied acceptances to the utmost verge of the law, and he doubted, whether it did not go beyond the proper boundary. Rule discharged.

and received¹. In a more recent case at nisi prius it was decided by Gibbs, C. J. that a promise to accept a bill of exchange, in a letter written before the bill is drawn, can only be taken advantage of as an acceptance by a person to whom the letter was communicated, and who took the bill upon the credit of it². Therefore, where a person has, for a sufficient consideration, engaged in writing, or in some cases even verbally, to accept a bill, *thereafter* to be drawn, such promise will not be negotiable; and the action for the breach thereof must be brought in the name of the person to whom the promise was made, and the declaration should be special, founded on the agreement. Although it has never been expressly decided, that the mere writing a name at the bottom of a blank piece of paper will have the operation of an acceptance, yet it may be inferred that it will have the same effect; it having been decided³ that an indorsement written on a blank stamp, will afterwards bind the indorser for any sum and time of payment which the stamp will admit, and which the person to whom he intrusts it chooses to insert; and that a person signing his name to a blank paper, and delivering it to another person, for the purpose of drawing a bill in such manner as he should choose, was bound by such signature as a drawer⁴.

edly. At what time it may be made.

¹ Johnson v. Collings, 1 East. 98.—Clarke v. Cock, 4 East. 70.—Wynne v. Raikes, 5 East. 514. S. P.

² Milne v. Prest, 4 Campb. 393.—1 Holt, C. N. P. 181. It was insisted that the following letter, written by the defendant before the bill was drawn, amounted to an acceptance:—"We acquit you of buying wheat instead of oats; we will however accept the bills for the wheat when we receive notice of its being shipped." The case of Johnson v. Collings was cited, for the defendant, to shew that a promise to accept a bill not in existence, was not binding. Per Gibbs, C. J. You are within that case, unless they show that the letter was communicated to the plaintiff, and that he received the bill with a knowledge. A promise to accept not communicated to the person who takes the bill, does not amount to an acceptance; but if the person be thereby induced to take a bill, he gains a right, equivalent to an actual acceptance, against the party who has given the promise to accept.

³ Russel v. Langstaff, Dougl. 514.—Powell v. Duff, 3 Campb. 182. ante, 160.

⁴ Collis v. Emmett, 1 Hen. Bla. 313. ante, 160.

2dly. At what time it may be made.

An acceptance being an absolute undertaking to pay, may be made even *after* the time appointed by the bill for payment¹, and even after a prior refusal to accept², so as to bind the acceptor, though it would discharge the drawer and indorsers, unless due notice of the prior non-acceptance, or of non-payment at the time the bill became due, were given³; and in such case, the acceptor would be liable to pay the bill on demand⁴; though in pleading his liability may be stated to have been to pay according to the tenor and effect of the bill⁵. It has been observed⁶, that the drawee, although he have effects of the drawer's, ought not to accept bills, after he is aware of the failure of the drawer, because after that event, one creditor of the drawer ought not to be paid in preference to another. But, payments made to a bankrupt without knowledge of his being so, are protected by the 1st Jac. 1. c. 15. s. 14,; and as an acceptance of a bill for a precedent debt, has always been deemed a payment in satisfaction, provided the bill be honoured when due, there is no doubt, and

¹ Per Lord Ellenborough, C. J. in *Wynne v. Raikes*, 5 East. 521.—*Jackson v. Pigot*, *Ld. Raym.* 364.—*Salk.* 127.—*Carth.* 450.—12 Mod. 212. In an action against the acceptor of a bill, the declaration stated, that it was dated 25th March, 1696, payable one month after date, and that in April, 1697, it was shewn to the defendant, and he promised to pay it according to its tenor and effect. After verdict for the plaintiff it was moved in arrest of judgment, that the promise was void, because, as the day of payment was past at the time of acceptance, it was impossible to pay the bill according to its tenor and effect; but it was answered for the plaintiff that it amounted to a promise to pay generally, and the court being of that opinion gave judgment for the plaintiff. *Mitford v. Walcot*, *Ld. Raym.* 574.—*Salk.* 129.—12 Mod. 410.—*Gregory v. Walcup*, *Com. Rep.* 75, to the same effect.—*Beawes*, pl. 224.—*Bayl.* 76.—*Selw. N. P.* 4th edit. 312. n. 21.

² *Wynne v. Raikes*, 5 East. 514. The defendants having previously refused to accept, afterwards wrote to the drawers a letter, stating "our prospect of security is so much improved, that we shall accept or certainly pay all the bills which have hitherto appeared," was held to amount to an acceptance. See post.

³ *Mitford v. Walcot*, 12 Mod. 410.

⁴ See cases in note 1.

⁵ *Id. ibid.*

⁶ *Poth.* pl. 96, et vide *Pinkerton v. Marshall*, 2 Hen. Bla. 334. and cases there cited.

indeed it has been so decided, that if a person not having notice of the bankruptcy of the drawer, accept a bill drawn on him after such bankruptcy, he will be justified in paying his acceptance, although he has afterwards heard of the bankruptcy¹; but where a trader, after a secret act of bankruptcy, consigned goods to a factor who agreed to advance money thereon, and accordingly accepted and paid bills drawn on him by the trader, and a commission afterwards issued against such trader on such prior act of bankruptcy, after which the factor sold the goods and received the money, it was held that he was answerable to the assignees for the value of the goods². If a person draw a bill of exchange on another, and deliver it to the payee for a sufficient consideration, and the drawer then die, this being an appropriation of a particular fund for the benefit of the payee, it seems that the death would be no revocation of the request to accept, and that the drawee may accept and pay³.

2dly, At what time it may be made.

An acceptance may be considered with reference, 1st, to its *form*, and 2dly, to its *extent* or *effect*. In point of *form*, it is verbal, or written, and in *extent* or *effect*, it is either absolute, conditional, partial, or varying from the tenor of the bill. The holder may in all cases, insist on an absolute acceptance, in writing, on the face of the bill, according to the terms of the bill, and in default thereof, may consider the bill as dishonoured⁴.

3dly, *Form and effect* of the different acceptances whether in writing or verbal, or absolute, conditional, partial or varying.

And, therefore, in a late case⁵, in an action on a bill, against the drawer of a bill drawn on Lisbon “payable in *effective* and *not in val reals*,” and the drawee had offered to accept it, payable in val denaros, another

¹ Wilkins v. Casey, 7 T. R. 711.—Ante, 154. n. 2. and see observations in Copland v. Stein, 8 T. R. 208.

² Copland v. Stein, 8 T. R. 208. This is altered as to transactions upwards of two months before the date of the commission, see 46 Geo. 3. c. 135.—49 Geo. 3. c. 121. see also ante, 152 to 156.

³ Tate v. Hilbert, 2 Ves. jun. 115, 6.—Hammonds v. Barclay, 2 East. 227. 235, 6. post, Payment.

⁴ Poth. pl. 47.—3 and 4 Anne, c. 9. s. 5.—Parker v. Gordon, 7 East. 387.—Gammon v. Schmoll, 5 Taunt. 344.—1 Marsh. 80. S. C.

⁵ Boehm v. Garcias, 1 Campb. 425.

3dly, *Form and effect of acceptances.*

sort of currency, it was held that the holder might have refused such acceptance, and protested the bill as dishonoured; and Lord Ellenborough said, "The plaintiff had a right to refuse this acceptance. The drawee of a bill has no right to vary the acceptance from the terms of the bill, unless they be unambiguously and unequivocally the same. Therefore, without considering whether a payment in '*denaros*' might have satisfied the term '*effective*,' an acceptance in '*denaros*' was not a sufficient acceptance of a bill, drawn payable in '*effective*.' The drawee ought to have accepted generally, and an action being brought against them on the general acceptance, the question would properly have risen as to the meaning of the term." So in *Parker v. Gordon*¹, Mr. Justice Lawrence said, "The holder of a bill may refuse to take a special acceptance payable at a banker's, but if he choose to take it, he must comply with the terms of it, and present it there in the usual banking hours, or he will discharge the drawer and indorsers." If, however, he be satisfied with any of these acceptances, each will be obligatory on the acceptor, and if due notice thereof be given to the other parties to the bill, they will also be liable. Premising, as a general rule, that what amounts to an acceptance is a question of law, and not of fact², the nature of these several acceptances will be considered in their proper order.

1st, *Form.*

It is clearly established, that a valid acceptance may be in *writing*, on the *bill itself*, or on *another paper*, as by a letter undertaking to accept bills already drawn³, or it may be *verbal*⁴. In *Johnson v. Col-*

¹ 7 East. 385.

² *Sproat v. Matthews*, 1 T. R. 182. 186.

³ *Clarke v. Cock*, 4 East. 71.—Ex parte Dyer, 6 Ves. 9.—Holt, C. N. P. 83, 4.—Selw. Ni. Pri. 4th ed. 311. In *Crutchley v. Mann*, 1 Marsh. 29. it seems to have been doubted, whether an engagement on another paper to accept a foreign bill must not be stamped, but this, it should seem, cannot be necessary.

⁴ *Clarke v. Cock*, 4 East. 67.—Ex parte Dyer, 6 Ves. jun. 9.—*Lumley v. Palmer*, Rep. Temp. Hardw. 74.—Stra. 1000. S. C.—*Clavey*

lings¹, Lord Kenyon, C. J. observed, "that it is much to be lamented, that any thing has been deemed to be an acceptance of a bill of exchange, besides an express acceptance in writing; but he admitted, that the cases had gone beyond that line, and had determined that there might be a parol acceptance." And in *Clarke against Cock*², Lord Ellenborough, C. J. observed, "That if the law in this respect were to be framed de novo, it might perhaps be desirable to have nothing else taken as an acceptance, than an acceptance in writing on the bill itself, that every one to whom it passed, might see on the face of the instrument itself, whether or not it were accepted; but that it is now much too late to recur back to that, after the various decisions in the times of Lord Hardwicke and Lord Mansfield;" and he also observed³, "That it might be for the convenience of mercantile affairs, that a bill might be accepted by a collateral writing, without the bill itself coming to the actual touch of the ac-

3dly, Form and effect of acceptances.

and *Dolbin*, Rep. Temp. Hardw. 278.—*Dupays v. Shepherd*, Holt, 297.—Mar. 65.—See 3 & 4 Anne, c. 9. s. 5.—Bayl. 70. n. c.

Cox v. Coleman, M. 6 Geo. 2. cited arguendo, Ann. 75. A foreign bill drawn on defendant was protested for non-acceptance, and returned, and afterwards defendant told the plaintiff, "if the bill comes back I will pay it" and this was held a good acceptance.

Lumley v. Palmer, Str. 1000, Ann. 74. In an action against the defendant as acceptor of a bill, the acceptance appeared to be parol only; which Lord Hardwicke, C. J. ruled to be sufficient, that being good at common law, and the stat. 3 and 4 Anne, c. 9. sec. 5 and 8. which requires an acceptance to be in writing, in order to charge the drawer with damages and costs, having a proviso that it shall not extend to discharge any remedy that any person may have against the acceptor. But Eyre, C. J. of the Common Pleas, having ruled it otherwise in *Rex v. Maggott*, 7 Geo. 2. an application was made for a new trial, and the court, to settle the point, ordered it to be argued; upon the argument the court held Lord Hardwicke's direction right, and Eyre, C. J. waived his opinion and agreed with the court of King's Bench, and this determination is referred to and approved of in *Julian v. Scholbrooke*, 2 Wils. 9.—*Powel v. Mounier*, 1 Atk. 612. and in *Pillans v. Van Mierop*, Burr. 1662. Lord Mansfield says, a verbal acceptance is binding, and in *Sproat v. Matthews*, 1 T. R. 182. it was taken for granted by the court and bar, that a parol acceptance was good. See also *Str.* 817.

¹ *Johnson v. Collings*, 1 East. 103.

² *Clarke v. Cock*, 4 East. 67.

³ *Id. ibid.* 4 East. 71. S. C.

3dly, *Form and effect of acceptances.*

ceptor, which would sometimes create great delay." And therefore in *Clarke and others v. Cock*¹, where A. in consideration of having commissioned B. to receive certain African bills payable to him, drew a bill upon B. for the amount, payable to his own order, and B. acknowledged, by letter, the receipt of the list of the African bills, and that A. had drawn for the amount, and assured him that it would meet with due honour from him; this was holden an acceptance of the bill by B.; and the purport of such letter, having been communicated by A. to third persons, who, on the credit of it, advanced money on the bill to A., and who indorsed it to them, it was also holden, that B. was liable, as acceptor, to an action by such indorsees, although after the indorsement, in consequence of the African bills having been attached in B.'s hands, who was ignorant of his letter having been shewn, A. wrote to B., advising him not to accept the bill when tendered to him, which, as between A. and B., would have been a discharge of B.'s acceptance, if the bill had still remained in A.'s hands. And in *Wynne and another v. Raikes and others*², it was holden, that a letter from the drawees of a bill in England, to the drawer in America, stating, that "their prospect of security being so much improved, they should accept or certainly pay the bill," is an acceptance in law, although the drawees had before refused to accept the bill, when presented for acceptance by the holder who resided in England, and again, after the writing such letter, refused payment of it when presented for payment, and although such letter, written before, was not received by the drawer in America until *after the bill* became due.

It is necessary, however, to observe, that an inland bill cannot be protested for non-payment, unless it has been accepted in writing³. If a party to a bill, on

¹ Id. *ibid.* 4 East. 57.

² *Wynne v. Raikes*, 5 East. 514.

³ 9 & 10 Wm. 3. c. 17. s. 1.

being asked if it be his own hand-writing, answer that it is, and will be duly paid, or if he has paid several other bills accepted in the same hand-writing, he cannot afterwards set up, as a defence, forgery of his name; for he has accredited the bill, and induced another to take it¹.

3dly. Form and effect of acceptance.

As already observed, an acceptance, in regard to *extent* or *effect*, may be either absolute, conditional, or partial, or varying from the tenor of the bill. In regard to these, many of the points in the pages, immediately preceding, are applicable.

2dly. Extent or effect.

An *absolute* acceptance is an engagement to pay the bill according to its tenor. At present, the usual mode of making such an acceptance is either by writing on the bill the word "*accepted*," and subscribing the *drawee's name*; or by writing the word "*accepted*," only; or it may be by merely writing the *name*, either at the bottom, or across the bill. Where a bill payable after sight is accepted, it is usual and proper also to write the day on which the acceptance is made². And if on production of such a bill an acceptance appears to have been written by the defendant, under a date which is not in his hand-writing, the date is evidence of the time of acceptance, because it is the usual course of business in such cases for a clerk to write the date, and for the party to write his acceptance under the date³. On a written acceptance by any other person than the drawee, it

Absolute.

¹ Leach v. Buchanan, 4 Esp. Rep. 226.—Barber v. Gingell, 3 Esp. Rep. 60. ante, 34, n. 3.—Jones v. Ryde, 1 Marsh. 159, 160; and Price v. Neal, there cited.

Leach v. Buchanan, 4 Esp. Rep. 226.—Indorser against the acceptor of a bill of exchange; the only evidence as to the acceptance was, that the defendant had acknowledged to witness that this acceptance was his hand-writing, and that it would be duly paid. The defendant offered to prove that the acceptance had been forged by the drawer, but Lord Ellenborough held, that unless the evidence given by the plaintiff was wholly discredited, it could not entitle the defendant to a verdict; and as he so accredited the bill, and induced a person to take it, he should hold him liable for the payment; and the plaintiff had a verdict.

² Beaves, pl. 266.

³ Glenop v. Jacob, 4 Campb. 227.—1 Stark. 69. S. C.

3dly. *Form and effect of acceptances.*

should seem essential that his name should appear¹. By the practice of the London bankers, if one banker who holds a cheque drawn on another banker, presents it after four o'clock, it is not then paid, but a mark is put on it to shew that the drawer has effects, and that it will be paid, and this marking amounts to an acceptance, payable next day at the clearing house². When an acceptance is made by one partner only, on the partnership account, he should regularly subscribe the name of the firm, or express that he accepts for himself and partner³; but any mode which indicates an intention to be bound by the terms of the request in the bill, will bind the firm⁴. And when by an agent for his principal, he must subscribe the name of such principal, or specify that he does it as agent, as otherwise it may, if he be named or described in the direction of the bill, make him personally responsible⁵. It has been adjudged, that if a bill be made payable in a city or large town generally, it must, by the acceptance, be made payable at some particular house or place there, and if not, that the holder may protest it, which seems reasonable, as otherwise it would be difficult in many cases for the holder to find out the residence of the drawee⁶. Much discussion has of late taken place upon the effect of an acceptance payable at a particular place, and which we will consider when we examine the presentment for payment.

In general, however, as no formal act is required to constitute a simple contract, and any mode which demonstrates an intention to become bound by it, will have an obligatory force on the contracting party; any act of the drawee which evinces a consent to comply with the request of the drawer, will constitute

¹ Bayl. 78.

² Robson v. Bennett, 2 Taunt. 388.

³ Ante, 51.

⁴ Ante, 51, 3.—Mason v. Rumsey, 1 Campb. 384.

⁵ Poth. pl. 118.—Thomas v. Bishop, 2 Stra. 955.—Macbeath v. Haldimand, 1 T. R. 172.—et ante, 36.

⁶ Gregory v. Walcup, Comyns, 75.—Mutford v. Walcot, Lord Raym. 574.

an acceptance. Thus the word "accepted," "seen"¹, 3dly. *Form and effect of acceptances.* "presented"², the day of the month³, or a direction to a third person to pay the bill⁴, written thereon, or on any other paper, relating to the transaction⁵, will amount to an acceptance; nor, indeed, as we have just seen, is it necessary the acceptance should be in writing⁶.

An acceptance may also be *implied* as well as expressed; and it is said that it may be inferred from the drawee's keeping the bill a great length of time, or by any other act, which gives credit to the bill, and induces the holder not to protest it; or is intended as a surprise upon him, and to induce him to consider the bill as accepted⁷.

¹ Poth. pl. 45.

² Anon. Comb. 401. Per Holt, C. J. If the drawee underwrites a bill "presented such a day, or only the day of the month," 'tis such an acknowledgement of the bill as amounts to an acceptance, and this was declared by the jury to be the common practice; and see Vin. Ab. tit. Bills of Exchange, L. 4.—Bayl. 77.

³ Id. *ibid*.

⁴ Moor v. Whitby, Bull. Ni. Pri. 270. A bill, drawn by Newton on the defendant was presented for acceptance; the defendant wrote upon it, "Mr. Jackson, please to pay this note, and charge it to Mr. Newton's account—R. Whitby." It was insisted that this was no acceptance, but only a direction to Jackson to pay it out of a particular fund, and if there were no such fund the money was not to be paid.—Per cur. This is a direction to Jackson to pay the money, and it signifies not to what account it is to be placed, when paid; that is a transaction between them only, and this is clearly a sufficient acceptance. Bayl. 77, 8.—Selw. N. P. 4th edit. 314.

⁵ Wilkinson v. Lutwidge, Stra. 648. Drawer against the acceptor of a bill of exchange. The question was as to the validity of the acceptance. The bill was drawn in New England, and remitted to the plaintiff's correspondent in London, together with another bill drawn upon the same account, both which were sent to the defendant for his acceptance, who, in his letter acknowledging the receipt of them, wrote thus, "the two bills of exchange which you sent me, I will pay them in case the owners of the Queen Anne do not, and they living in Dublin, must first apply to them. I hope to have their answer in a week or ten days. I do not expect they will pay them, but I judge it proper to take their answer before I do, which I request you will acquaint Mr. Wilkinson with, and that he may rest satisfied with the payment." The defendant insisted that this was only a conditional acceptance, to pay in case the owners of the Queen Anne did not. But Raymond, C. J. held the acceptance an absolute one. See also Pillans v. Van Mierop, 3 Burr. 1663.

⁶ Ante, 223, n. 4.

⁷ Clavey v. Dolbin, R. T. Hardw. 278. post, 232, n. 4.—Peach v. Kay, post, 232, n. 5.—Harvey v. Martin, 1 Campb. 425.—Fernandes

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v. Glynn, 1 Camp. 426.—*Mason v. Barff*, *Jeane v. Ward*, Bayl. 81, 2. Poth. pl. 46.

Harvey v. Martin, 1 Campb. 425.—Bayl. 81. n. 2. In an action by the payee and holder of a bill against the defendant as acceptor, it appeared, that the bill was drawn in Guernsey, where the drawer and the plaintiff resided, on the defendant, who lived in Cornwall, dated 13th of March, 1805, at three months; that within a fortnight after it was drawn, the plaintiff sent it to the defendant, desiring him to accept it, and remit to S. Dobree, the plaintiff's correspondent in London. On 13th April, 1805, the plaintiff, finding that the bill had not been sent to S. Dobree, wrote to the defendant, requesting him to accept and send it, stating, that though he considered the keeping of the bill as tantamount to an acceptance, yet that it was not the same to him, as S. Dobree would not give him credit for it until he received it accepted. The defendant, however, did not accept the bill, or remit it, or give any notice of his refusal so to do. On 1st of June the defendant signed a letter, admitting that he had kept the bill, though told by the plaintiff that he considered his doing so as tantamount to an acceptance, as he intended to have paid it, but having no effects of the drawer's, refused to pay; and on 4th of July, when the bill was protested for non-payment, he said he had neglected to write an acceptance upon it, thinking it of no consequence as he meant to pay it. Lord Ellenborough referred to a MS. case of *Trimmer v. Oddie*, in which Lord Kenyon expressed an opinion, that a mere keeping of a bill was an acceptance, and said he inclined to entertain the same opinion, but should leave that question to the jury, on the custom. Gibbs, however, for the defendant, admitting that he could not answer the case, a verdict was found for the plaintiff. And on an application to Lord Ellenborough to certify for a special jury, his lordship refused, saying, that this was a clear case, but that if it had not been attended with such strong admissions on the part of the defendant, but had been a mere case of a bill kept by the drawer, he should have thought it a fit case for a special jury to decide whether such detention of the bill amounted to an acceptance.

See *Scaccia de Commerciis et Cambio*, folio 383. num. 385. who, in enumerating the different acceptances, mentions, that which is made *tacite per receptionem et detentionem literarum*. See also Poth. *Contrat de Change*, part 1, chap. 3d. page, 39, who observes, that the ordonnance having directed that an acceptance should be in writing, had rendered inadmissible the acceptance *tacite* resulting from the drawee's having received and retained the bill.

Mason v. Barff, Guildhall, A.D. 1817. The declaration contained a special count for not accepting, and two counts against defendant as acceptor of two bills. The plaintiffs (having received the bills from the drawer, and discounted them on the previous representation of the defendants, that they the defendants would accept all bills drawn on them, as soon as plaintiffs were informed by the drawer that he had sent off goods purchased by him on account of the defendants) sent the bills on 24th February to defendants for acceptance; they received them on the 27th February, but returned no answer, and kept the bill till the 7th March, and then sent word that they could not accept till the invoices were sent by the drawer. And the jury, under the direction of Lord Ellenborough, held the defendant liable as acceptor; and his lordship said, the law is settled, that the keeping by the drawee, of a bill of exchange, an unreasonable length of time, may amount to an acceptance, (what is a reasonable time depends on the particular circumstances of the case). His keeping the bill suspends the holder's proceedings. He afterwards said, that he thought, though the mere keeping might not be a virtual acceptance in the strict legal sense of the term, yet it was an undertaking to accept,

Thus where in an action¹ on a bill of exchange it appeared that the plaintiff had transmitted the bill by post to the defendant, the drawee desiring him to ac-

Sdly. Form and effect of acceptances.

which made him equally liable under the special count. He directed a general verdict. Scarlett and Reader for plaintiff.

Jenne v. Ward, Guildhall, 25th Feb. 1818. This was an action on a bill of exchange drawn by Godfrey upon the defendant, for the sum of £150, payable at sight, dated the 28th of May, 1817. One count alledged an acceptance by the defendant, another alledged that the plaintiff sent the bill to the defendant for acceptance, and that the defendant undertook to return it either accepted or not accepted; but that he did not return it at all.

Godfrey, when a minor, had been supplied by the plaintiff with shoes, for an adventure to the East Indies, and on his return to England in 1817, being entitled to a legacy of £200, under a will, of which the defendant was a co-executor, drew the bill in question as a security for the amount. The plaintiff delivered the bill to the defendant for his acceptance; and it appeared that the defendant, in July 1817, wrote to the plaintiff to inform him, that upon the application of Godfrey and his mother, he had paid him his legacy; and that not conceiving that the bill would be of any use, he had destroyed it.

Upon this evidence, Lord Ellenborough was of opinion, that the plaintiff was entitled to recover, since the destruction of the bill was tantamount to an acceptance; and he referred to a note of his own, of a case before Lord Kenyon, where his lordship held, that the not returning a bill sent for acceptance, was equivalent to an acceptance.

Gurney, in support of the plaintiff's case, referred to the cases of *Bentinek v. Dorrien*, &c.

Topping contended, that the cases cited did not entitle the plaintiff to recover, and that they were distinguishable from the present, since in those there was a previous course of dealing between the parties, which rendered the detention equivalent to an acceptance; but that here, on the contrary, the defendant had always declined to accept, and had never given the plaintiff any reason to believe that he would accept the bill. He further insisted on the fact, that at the time when the bill bore date, the drawee was an infant.

Lord Ellenborough, upon the fact of infancy, was willing to reserve the point, but he said, that there were many cases to shew, that according to the custom of merchants, if a party declined to accept a bill he ought to return it, and that he made himself liable by detaining it; that in the case which he had already alluded to, he had conceived that the proper mode of declaring against a party who detained a bill was to alledge the special circumstances; but that Lord Kenyon thought otherwise.—That even the alteration of a bill had been held to render the party liable; here he had gone further, and had absolutely destroyed the bill. It was possible that the infancy of the drawee might make a difference. In order to prove the infancy of the drawee at the time of drawing the bill, the defendant proved a certificate of baptism, copied from the books of the East India Company, from which it appeared, that Godfrey, the drawer, had been baptised at Madras, on the 3d of July, 1796, and no other evidence was given to prove the minority.

Lord Ellenborough then left it to the jury to say, whether the drawer was of age or not when he drew the bill. The jury found that he was of age, and then, under the direction of his lordship, they found a verdict for the plaintiff.

¹ *Harvey v. Martin*, 1 Campb. 425. ante, p. 228. in notes.

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cept it, and hand it over to plaintiff's agent in London, which was the usual mode of dealing between the parties; and the plaintiff hearing nothing of his bill from his agent, wrote to the defendant, remonstrating with him on account of his delay; and the defendant answered he had retained the bill because he once thought of accepting it, but now declined doing so. In this case Lord Ellenborough said, "This is clearly an acceptance. If the bill is left for the express purpose of being accepted, and is retained by the drawee, this retention is as much an acceptance, as if he had written his name on the face of it." So where the drawee kept the bill some time, and then destroyed it, this conduct was held to render him liable as acceptor¹. But by the usage of trade in London, a check may be retained by a banker, on whom it was drawn, till five o'clock in the afternoon of the day on which it is presented for payment, and then returned, though it has been previously cancelled by mistake².

A verbal or written *promise* to accept, at a future period, a bill *already* drawn, or that a bill then drawn, shall meet due honour³, or shall be accepted, or certainly paid when due⁴, amounts to an absolute acceptance; and a promise of the same nature, as for instance, "leave the bill and I will accept it⁵," and it be

¹ *Jeune v. Ward*, ante, 229.

² *Fernandez v. Glynn*, 1 Campb. 426, in notes; plaintiff paid into the house of Vere and Co. a check on the defendant's house. Vere's clerk took it to the clearing house to be paid, and put it into the defendant's drawer. Vere's clerk received it back before five, cancelled, with a memorandum written under it, "*cancelled by mistake*." The course was proved to be for the clerks to take the checks from the drawers, and send them to the respective bankers, and those which they will not pay are returned before five o'clock. Lord Ellenborough held, that notwithstanding the cancelling, the defendant had till five o'clock to return the bill; and having so returned it, it amounted to a refusal to pay. See also *Turner v. Mead*, 1 Stra. 416.

³ *Clark v. Cock*, 4 East. 69, 70.

⁴ *Wynne v. Raikes*, 5 East. 514.—*Ex parte Dyer*, 6 Ves. jun. 9. ante, 220, n. 2.

⁵ *Bul. Ni. Pri.* 270.—*Molloy*, b. 2. c. 10. s. 20.—*Mar. 17.*—*Bayl.* 81.—*acc.* *Pierson v. Dunlop*, *Cowp.* 573. *Semb. contra.* and *quære* if this answer would amount to an acceptance, if given within the twenty-four hours which the drawee usually has to accept the bill.

Bul. Ni. Pri. 270. A small matter amounts to an acceptance, as

proved that the bill was sent or left accordingly¹, will also amount to a complete and absolute acceptance, in the hands of a bonâ fide holder, although the drawee had no consideration for the promise². So a letter promising that a bill already drawn shall be paid, will operate as an acceptance, although the letter be not received until after the bill has become due, and although no person has been induced by such promise to take the bill³. So a verbal promise to accept, though the party expressly defer a written acceptance, yet where he says, "leave the bill and I will accept it," is a complete acceptance⁴, and a verbal promise to accept a returned bill when it shall come back, is binding if it be returned⁵. But as we have already seen⁶, a promise to accept a non-existing bill is not an acceptance, although the party may be sued specially for the breach of his engagement⁷.

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A promise to accept in future, made on an *executory* consideration will not bind, while the consideration

saying, "leave the bill with me and I will accept it," for it is giving a credit to the bill and hindering the protest.

Lord Ellenborough, in *Clark v. Cock*, 4 East. 69, said, "It has been laid down in so many cases, that a promise *that a bill when due shall meet due honor*, amounts to an acceptance, and that without sending it for a formal acceptance in writing, that it would be wasting words to refer to books on the subject."

Lord Ellenborough, in delivering judgment in *Wynne v. Raikes*, 5 East. 521. said "A promise to pay an existing bill is an acceptance. A promise to pay it is also an acceptance. A promise therefore to do the one or the other, *i. e.* to accept or certainly pay, cannot be less than an acceptance."

¹ *Anderson v. Hick*, 3 Campb. 179. A bill drawn upon the defendants was returned unaccepted, but one of the defendants afterwards told the plaintiff, "if he would send it (the bill) to the counting house again, he would give directions for its being accepted." The plaintiff contended that this promise amounted to an acceptance; but could not prove that the bill was sent back to the defendant's counting-house. Lord Ellenborough said—This was only a conditional promise to accept, and could not operate as an acceptance till the bill was sent back to the counting house; plaintiff nonsuited. See also *Cox v. Coleman*, cited Rep. Temp. Hardw. 74.

² *Pillans v. Van Mierop*, Burr. 1669.

³ *Wynne v. Raikes*, 1 East. 514. ante, 220.

⁴ *Molloy*, b. 2. c. 10. sec. 20.

⁵ *Cox v. Coleman*, ante, 224, and *Anderson v. Hick*, 3 Campb. 179. *supra*, note 1.

⁶ Ante, 217, 8, 9.

⁷ *Smith v. Brown*, 2 Marsh. 41.

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remains *executory*, unless it influence some person to take or to retain the bill¹; and in all cases, if the promise to accept in future be obtained from the drawee, by any fraud or misrepresentation, it will not bind him, unless it be in the hands of a *bonâ fide* holder².

To constitute an acceptance there must be some circumstance from whence it may be inferred that the drawee imagined he had induced the holder to consider the bill as accepted³, and the whole of the circumstances must be taken together, and there must be evidence of a contract to charge a party as acceptor⁴. Therefore an express refusal to accept, as, "I will not accept the bill⁵;" or an answer given by the drawee

¹ Bayl. 78, 9. cites *Pillans v. Van Mierop*, 3 Burr. 1669. and see *Clarke v. Cock*, 4 East. 70.—*Wynne v. Raikes*, 5 East. 521.—Holt. C. N. P. 183.—In *Pillans v. Van Mierop*, Burr. 1666, Lord Mansfield says, it was argued at the trial that this imported to be a credit given to Pillans and Rose, in prospect of a future credit to be given by them to White, and that this credit might well be countermanded before the advancement of any money, and this is so.

² *Pillans v. Van Mierop*, Burr. 1669.

³ Ante, 227, *Bentinck v. Dorrien*, 6 East. 201.

⁴ Per Lord Hardwicke, in *Clavey v. Dolbin*, Rep. Temp. Hardw. 278. Action upon an inland bill of exchange against the acceptor, and the evidence of an acceptance was this; the bill having been presented for acceptance, and refused by the drawee, because he had no effects, was returned into the country, and a little while afterwards, the bill being hazardous, plaintiff's agent met the drawee and asked him if he could not help to secure him his debt, and he said he would if he could, for he had now some effects in his hands; whereupon the agent immediately wrote for the bill, and presented it to the drawee, who bid him leave the bill and he would examine into it, and it was left with him eight or ten days, and then the agent called again, and the drawee offered to let him sell some of the effects and pay himself, which the agent refused, and thereupon this action is brought; and per Lord Hardwicke, indeed, it has been adjudged, that a *parol* acceptance will be good, and possibly leaving the bill ten days with the drawee might of itself be such a consent as to amount to an acceptance. But this is not so, for you must take the whole together, and there must be evidence of a contract to charge the acceptor, whereas it is otherwise upon this evidence.

⁵ *Peach v. Kay*. Bayl. 78. *acc.*—*Lumley v. Palmer*, Rep. Temp. Hardw. 75. in notes, (where a written refusal is said to amount to an acceptance) *contra*.

In *Lumley v. Palmer*, Rep. Temp. Hardw. 75. there is this note: "Underwriting or indorsing a bill thus, *I will not accept this bill*, is held by the custom of merchants to be a good acceptance," but in Bayley on Bills, 78, it is stated that Lord Mansfield, in *Peach v. Kay*, sittings after Trinity Term, 1781, said "It was held by all the judges, that an express refusal to accept, written on the bill, where the drawee apprised the party who took it away, what he had written,

when the bill is called for, "there is your bill, it is all right"; "cannot be construed into an acceptance, unless intended to deceive the holder, and to induce him to consider it as an acceptance". And where the drawee after a refusal to accept, on the ground that he had no effects, promised to attempt to procure payment for the holder, because he had just received some effects; on which the bill was presented to him, and he desired the holder to leave it, and said, that he would examine into it; whereupon the bill was left with him eight or ten days, and was then called for, on which the drawee offered to let the holder sell some of the effects, and pay himself; this conduct was holden not to amount to an acceptance¹. So it has been determined, that if the drawee of a bill say he cannot accept it without further direction from *I. S.*, and *I. S.* afterwards desire him to accept and draw upon *A. B.* for the amount, the mere drawing a bill upon *A. B.* will not amount to an absolute acceptance, nor can become such before the bill on *A. B.* is accepted². And where the drawee of a bill, on presentment for payment, said, "this bill will be paid, but we cannot allow you for a duplicate protest," and the holder refused to receive payment without the charges of such protest, this was held not to amount to an acceptance³. And in all cases when the undertaking

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was no acceptance; but if the drawee had intended it as a surprise upon the party, and to make him consider it as an acceptance, they seemed to think it might have been otherwise."

¹ *Powell v. Jones*, 1 Esp. Rep. 17.

² *Id. ibid.*

³ *Clavey v. Dolbin*, Rep. Temp. Hardw. 278. ante, 232, n. 4. but see *Harvey v. Martin*, 1 Campb. 425, 6. ante, 228, in notes.

⁴ *Smith v. Nissen*, 1 T. R. 269.

⁵ *Anderson and others v. Heath and others*, 4 M. & S. 303. Where the holders of a foreign bill of exchange, payable sixty days after sight, presented it to the drawees for acceptance, which being refused, they protested it for non-acceptance, and afterwards, on the day it became due, presented it to the drawees for payment, making a charge for the expences of protesting it; to which the drawees said, "this bill will be paid, but we cannot allow you for a duplicate protest." And the holders refused to receive payment, without the charges; and afterwards the drawees revoked their offer to pay; held, that they might well do so, for this did not amount to an acceptance

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is doubtful, the drawee will be at liberty to rebut the presumption in favor of an acceptance; as, where a bill was sent by post to the drawee for acceptance, and he entered it in his bill-book, wrote upon it the number of the entry, and kept it ten days, and on the tenth day minuted the day of the month on it, and returned it, saying he could not accept, it was adjudged that these circumstances did not constitute an acceptance, it being proved that it was the drawee's practice to enter all his bills, whether he meant to accept them or not¹.

Conditional.

If the drawee of a bill be desirous not entirely to dishonour it, he may make such an acceptance as will subject him to the payment of the money only on a contingency, in which case the acceptance is called

of the bill by the drawees. Lord Ellenborough said, that in this case the defendants had, as it were, commenced the work of discharging the bill, and were upon the very brink of paying it, when the subject of the charge for the duplicate protest was started, which caused them to hold their hand. But at this time neither of the parties were treating about *accepting* the bill, nor was it ever mentioned or contemplated by them; all that was thought of was the payment of the bill. If therefore this could enure as an acceptance, it would enure against the plain intent of the parties. It is undoubtedly true that if a merchant, upon being applied to for his acceptance, uses words which import a promise to pay the bill, this will amount to an acceptance; but it is not so where the words are used upon a different occasion, and with a different intent. Now in this case all that was ever contemplated was payment, and as to that the defendant says, if you will take the amount of the bill it shall be paid, but if you choose to insist on having the seventeen shillings, I will not pay it. Not one word passes about acceptance; and the party unfortunately elected to stand upon his claim to the seventeen shillings, but for which he would have been paid. And Le Blanc, Justice, added, that to hold this an acceptance, would be to hold it something never intended by the parties.—And per curiam, judgment of nonsuit.

¹ *Powel v. Monnier*, 1 Atk. 611. A bill was sent by the post to the drawee for acceptance; he entered it in his bill book (which was his practice with all bills he received, whether he intended to accept them or not) wrote upon it the number of the entry, and kept it ten days; on the tenth he wrote upon it the day of the month, and returned it, saying he could not accept it. And per Ld. Hardwicke, "It has been said to be the custom of merchants, that if a man underwrites any thing, be it what it may, it amounts to an acceptance; but if there were nothing more than this in the case, I should think it of little avail to charge the defendant;" but he decided that a letter, the drawer had written, amounted to an acceptance.

*conditional*¹. This is permitted, though we have seen that the bill cannot be *drawn* payable on a contingency². The holder *is not bound* to receive such an acceptance, but if he do receive it, he must observe its terms³. He should give immediate notice to the other parties to the bill, of the nature of the acceptance offered⁴; by which means they will not be discharged from liability to pay the bill, in case it should be returned.

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Any act which evinces an intention not to be bound, unless upon a certain event, is a conditional acceptance. Thus an acceptance by the drawee of a bill, to pay, "as remitted for⁵;" or "on account of the ship *Thetis*, when in cash, for the said vessel's cargo⁶;" or a promise to accept a returned bill, "when it shall come back⁷" or to accept "as soon as he should sell such goods⁸;" or an answer "that the

¹ Bayl. 83, 4, 5.—Selw. N. P. 4th edit. 316, 7.—*Milne v. Prest*, Holt, C. N. P. 182.—4 Campb. 393.—*Anderson v. Hlick*, 3 Campb. 179. *Langston v. Comey*, 4 Campb. 176.—*Gammon v. Schmoll*, 5 Taunt. 344.—*Swan v. Cox*, 1 Marsh. 176.

² *Colehan v. Cooke*, Willes, 398. n. d. ante, 55 to 64.

³ Per Bayley, J. in *Sebags v. Abitbol*, 4 M. & S. 466. and in *Boehm v. Garcias*, 1 Camph. 425. Per Lord Ellenborough. The plaintiff had a right to refuse this acceptance. The drawee of a bill has no right to vary the acceptance from the terms of the bill, unless they be unambiguously and unequivocally the same.

Gammon v. Schmoll, 4 Taunt. 353. Per curiam. A man is not bound to receive a limited and qualified acceptance; he may refuse it and resort to the drawer; but if he does receive it, he must conform to the terms of it.—See also *Parker v. Gordon*, 7 East. 387. S. P.

⁴ Per Bayley, J. in *Sebags v. Abitbol*, 4 M. & S. 466.

⁵ *Banbury v. Lissett*, Stra. 1212. The drawee accepted a bill "*for Lisset and Galley, of Leghorn, to pay as remitted for thence at Usance*;" and it was objected in an action against him, that there was no evidence to shew he had a remittance, and that his acceptance was conditional only. Lee, C. J. declared he so understood it; but he left it to the jury, and they found for the defendant upon another point, and gave no opinion upon this.

⁶ *Julian v. Shobrooke*, 2 Wils. 9. The defendant accepted a bill to pay, *when in cash, for the cargo of the ship Thetis*; and on being sued, moved in arrest of judgment, that a conditional acceptance was not good, but the court held otherwise, and over-ruled the objection.

⁷ *Cox v. Coleman*, cited in *Lumley v. Palmer*, Rep. T. Hardw. 74. ante, 231, n. 1.

⁸ *Smith v. Abbott*, Stra. 1152.—Anonymous, 12 Mod. 477.

Smith v. Abbott, Stra. 1152. The defendant accepted a bill, "*to pay when goods consigned to him were sold*." He sold the goods, and on being sued upon his acceptance, insisted in arrest of judgment,

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bill would not be accepted till a navy bill was paid¹; or "that the drawer had consigned a ship and cargo to him (the drawee) and another person at Bristol, but that as he could not then tell whether the ship would arrive at London or at Bristol, he could not accept at that time²;" or to pay if a certain house should be given up to the drawee before a named day³; have respectively been holden to be conditional acceptances, and not to render the acceptor liable to the payment of the bill until the contingency has taken place⁴. But an answer by the drawee, that he would pay if another person would not, was construed to amount to an absolute acceptance, it appearing that the drawee held himself liable at all events, and that from other circumstances, it was not intended as a conditional acceptance⁵. And it is not yet settled whether the drawee, by accepting the bill, payable at a particular place, qualifies his general liability, so as to render it necessary to present the bill for payment at that place⁶. A conditional acceptance becomes as binding as an absolute one, when the event has happened on which the drawee undertook to pay the bill⁷. But it must nevertheless be declared on specially, with an averment that the condition has been performed⁸.

that it was not binding, because it was conditional; but the court, on consideration, held, that though the plaintiff might have refused to take it and have protested the bill, yet as he did take it, it was binding on the defendant.

¹ *Pierson v. Dunlop*, Cowp. 571. ante, p. 218. An answer that the bill would not be accepted till a navy bill was paid, was held a conditional acceptance, to pay when the navy bill should be discharged.

² *Sproat v. Matthews*, 1 T. R. 182. post, 239.

³ *Swan v. Cox*, 1 Marsh. 177.

⁴ *Id.* *ibid.* *Clarke v. Cock*, 4 East. 73.

⁵ *Wilkinson v. Lutwidge*, Stra. 648.

⁶ *Gammon v. Schmoll*, 5 Taunt. 344.—*Sebags v. Abitbol*, 4 M. & S. 462. See post as to presentment for payment.

⁷ *Banbury v. Lisset*, Stra. 1212.—*Lumley v. Palmer*, Rep. T. Hardw. 74.—*Pierson v. Dunlop*, Cowp. 571.—*Sproat v. Matthews*, 1 T. R. 182.—*Lewis v. Orde*, 1 Gilb. Evid. by Lofft, 179.

⁸ *Langston v. Corney*, 4 Campb. 176.—*Swan v. Cox*, 1 Marsh. 176.

With respect to the mode of annexing the condition, it is observed, that if a man intend to make a conditional acceptance, and accept in writing, he should be careful to express in such written acceptance the condition he may think proper to annex; for if the acceptance be in writing, but the condition be not, he will not be at liberty to avail himself of it against any subsequent party, if either such party, or any intermediate one between him and the person to whom the acceptance was given, took the bill without notice of the condition, and gave a valuable consideration for it; and at all events, the *onus* of proving such condition will lie upon the acceptor². If, however, the terms of the acceptance be ambiguous, parol evidence may be resorted to in order to explain them³. And where an executrix gave an acceptance for a debt due from her testator, and at the same time took a written engagement on another paper from the drawer to renew the bill from time to time until sufficient effects were received from the estate: this was held a sufficient qualification of the acceptance⁴.

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A *partial* acceptance, *varies* from the tenor of the bill, as where it is made to pay part of the sum for which the bill is drawn⁵, or to pay at a different time⁶, Partial or varying.

² Clark v. Cock, 4 East. 73.—Kaines v. Sir Robert Knightley, Skin. 54.—Thomas v. Bishop, Rep. T. Hardw. 1, 2, 3.—cites Mason v. Hunt, Dougl. 296.—Bowerbank v. Monteiro, 4 Taunt. 846.—Bayl. 84.

³ Swan v. Cox, 1 Marsh. Rep. 179.

⁴ Bowerbank v. Monteiro, 4 Taunt. 844.

⁵ Wegersloff v. Keene, 1 Stra. 214.—Petit v. Benson, Comb. 452. Molloy, pl. 26.—Mar. 68. 85.—Poth. pl. 43.—Wegersloff v. Keene, 1 Stra. 214. A foreign bill £127. 18s. 4d. was drawn on the defendant and he accepted it to pay £100 part thereof; he was sued upon this acceptance, and on demurrer to the replication, insisted that a partial acceptance was not good within the custom of merchants, but the court held otherwise, and judgment was given for the plaintiff.

⁶ Molloy, 283.—In Price v. Shute, as mentioned in Molloy, lib. 2. c. 10. s. 20, a bill drawn payable on the 1st January, was accepted to be paid the 1st of March, the holder struck out the 1st March, and put in 1st January, and when it was due, according to that date, he presented it for payment, which the acceptor refused, whereupon the

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or place¹. An acceptance may also vary from the tenor, in the manner in which the acceptor undertakes to pay the bill²; as for instance, part in money, and part in bills, or payable at a banker's, &c.; this also differs from a bill in its original formation, which we have seen must be for the payment of money only³.

In case of an acceptance varying in a material respect from the tenor of the bill, the holder, if he intend to resort to the other parties to the bill in default of payment, should immediately give notice to them of such conditional or partial acceptance⁴, and should, if he meant to avail himself of the acceptance, express in his notice, the nature of it; for any act from whence it may be collected that the holder does not acquiesce in the acceptance, such as a general notice of non-acceptance, will be a waiver of it⁵.

payee struck out the 1st January, and restored 1st March, and recovered in an action brought on that acceptance, as the case is understood by Buller, J.; see also Bayl. 87, n. b.—but in *Paton v. Winter*, 1 Taunt. 423. Laurence, J. observed, that in *Master v. Miller*, three judges against Buller, thought there must have been some mistake in Molloy's account of that decision, or that the case was not law; and that Lord Kenyon held the case not to conflict with *Master v. Miller*, because there the acceptance only was altered, and there was no alteration of the bill itself.—Bayl. 87.

Walker v. Atwood, 11 Mod. 190. A bill was drawn on the defendant 8th April and no time fixed for its payment, it was presented to the defendant 18th April, and he accepted it to pay the 8th September, this being stated in the declaration, the defendant demurred, and insisted, that as no time was prescribed for the payment, the bill was payable at sight, and then a promise to pay two or three months after sight was not an acceptance within the custom of merchants, but the court held it was an acceptance within the custom, and the demurrer was over-ruled.

¹ See cases of *Sebag v. Abitbol*, 4 M. & S. 462.—*Gammon v. Schmoll*, 5 Taunt. 344. post.

² *Petit v. Benson*, Comb. 452. A bill was accepted to be paid half in money and half in bills, and the question was, whether there could be a qualification of an acceptance, and it was proved by divers merchants that there might, for he that might refuse the bill totally and accept it in part, but that the holder was not bound to acquiesce in such acceptance.

³ Ante, 58.

⁴ Mar. 68. 85.—*Paton v. Winter*, 1 Taunt. 422, 3.—Per Bayley, J. in *Sebag v. Abitbol*, 4 M. & S. 466.—Bayl. 115, 6.

⁵ *Sproat v. Matthews*, 1 T. R. 182.—*Bentinck v. Dorrien*, 6 East. 200.—Bayl. 116.

The liability which an acceptance imposes on the drawee, may be collected from the preceding part of this chapter, in which it has been shewn that an absolute acceptance is an engagement to pay according to the tenor of the bill¹, and a conditional or partial one, to pay according to the tenor of the acceptance². and a drawee having accepted a bill after a condition annexed thereto by the indorser, is bound thereby, and should not pay the bill until the condition be performed³. He is *primarily* liable to pay the bill, and the drawer and indorsers are liable on his default⁴. But he is not liable to pay re-exchange⁵. It has been already observed, that as the interests of third persons are in general involved in the efficacy of a bill, an acceptance will, when the bill is in the hands of a third person who has given value for it, and who became the holder before it was due, be obligatory on the acceptor, though he received no consideration, and although the holder knew that circumstance⁶; for the very object of an accommodation acceptance, is to enable the party accommodated to obtain money

4thly. Of the liability of the acceptor, and of his rights in certain cases.

Sproat v. Matthews, 1 T. R. 182. The drawee of a bill of exchange, when a bill was presented to him for acceptance, said that a ship was consigned to him and a person in Bristol, and that till he should know to which port the ship would come he could not accept; but afterwards said that the bill would be paid though the ship should be lost; the plaintiff noted the bill for non-acceptance. The ship did afterwards arrive, and the defendant disposed of the cargo, and in an action against the defendant as acceptor, Buller, J. held, that the acceptance was conditional only, and that the noting shewed that the plaintiff did not choose to take it, and directed a nonsuit, and upon a rule to shew cause why there should not be a new trial, the court discharged the rule.

¹ Poth. pl. 164.—*Leftley v. Mills*, 4 T. R. 174.

² Poth. pl. 115, 6, 7.

³ *Robertson v. Kensington*, 4 Taunt. 30. ante, 179, n. 4.

⁴ *Laxton v. Peat*, 2 Campb. 187. n.

⁵ *Woolsley v. Crawford*, 2 Campb. 445.—*Napier v. Crawford*, 12 East. 420.

⁶ Ante, 89, 90.—*Simmonds v. Parminter*, 1 Wils. 187, 8.—*Vere v. Lewis*, 3 T. R. 183.—*Master v. Miller*, 4 T. R. 339.—Poth. pl. 118, 121.—*Molloy*, pl. 28. and *Mallet v. Thompson*, 5 Esp. Rep. 178.—*Knox v. Smith*, 3 Esp. 46. per Lord Eldon, C. J. In an action against the acceptor of a bill by an indorsee, for a valuable consideration, it is no defence that the bill was accepted merely for the accommodation of the drawer, and that this was known to the plaintiff; *secus* where the indorsee has notice, that the bill was drawn for a particular purpose, and has not been applied to it.

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or credit from a third person, and therefore the want of consideration furnishes no defence to one who has advanced money on the credit of the acceptor, though he may have been defrauded by the drawer'. The judgment of Lord Eldon in *Smith v. Knox*¹, states the law very clearly upon this subject. He said, "If a person gives a bill of exchange for a particular purpose, and that is known to the party who takes the bill; as if for example, to answer a particular demand, then the party taking the bill cannot apply it to a different purpose; but where a bill is given under no such restriction, but merely for the accommodation of the drawer or payee, and that is sent into the world; it is no answer to an action on that bill, that the defendant accepted it for the accommodation of the drawer, and that that fact was known to the holder; in such case, if the holder gave a bona fide consideration for it, he is entitled to recover the amount though he had full knowledge of the transaction. And though the holder of a bill may have received it with full notice of its having been accepted for the accommodation of the party dealing with him, yet he may retain the same as a security for a subsequent balance, unless the accommodation acceptor withdraw such bill"; but if a bill be accepted for the accommodation

¹ *Id. ibid.*—*Ex parte Marshall*, 1 Atk. 231.—*Arden v. Watkins*, 3 East. 325.—*Smith v. Knox*, 3 Esp. Rep. 46.—*Haly v. Lane*, 2 Atk. 182.

² 3 Esp. Rep. 46. and see the observations of the court as to the liability of an accommodation acceptor, in *Fentum v. Pocock*, Marsh. 16, 7.

³ *Attwood and another v. Crowdie and another*, 1 Stark. 483.—A. and Co. bankers in the country, being pressed by B. and Co. bankers in town, to whom they are indebted, to send up any bills that they can procure, transmit for account an accommodation bill accepted by D. and Co. When the bill becomes due, the balance is in favour of B. and Co. but the bills are not withdrawn, and afterwards the balance between the houses turns considerably in favour of A. and Co. and is so when B. and Co. become bankrupts. It was held that A. and Co. were entitled to recover against the acceptor. Upon a motion for a new trial it was contended, that the bills had not been sent for the purpose of securing a fluctuating balance, but on account of a then existing debt. Lord Ellenborough. Upon what terms D. and Co. originally accepted the bill does not appear, but the circumstances indicate what the nature of the transaction was; their not withdrawing their bills or demanding them back, shewed that they considered themselves to be sureties.

of the drawer for a particular purpose, which is afterwards satisfied, and the holder have notice thereof, he cannot afterwards apply the bill as a security upon another transaction¹. An acceptance by an executor on account of debts due from his testator, is an admission of assets, and will therefore make him personally responsible in case there be no effects of the testator in his hands²; and it is no defence for an acceptor to an action by a bonâ fide holder, that the drawer's name has been forged³; and if the drawee, on being asked if the acceptance be his hand-writing, answer that it is, and that it will be duly paid, he cannot afterward set up as a defence, forgery of his name, for he has accredited the bill and induced another to take it⁴. If the holder of a bill, the accept-

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¹ Cartwright v. Williams, at Guildhall, sittings after Hil. 58 Geo. 3.

² King v. Thom, 1 T. R. 487.

³ Price v. Neal, 3 Burr. 1354. 1 Bla. Rep. 390. S. C. Two forged bills were drawn upon the plaintiff, which he accepted and paid; on discovering the forgery, he brought this action for money had and received, to recover back the money. At the trial, the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff; and on a case reserved, Lord Mansfield said, it was incumbent on the plaintiff to be satisfied that the bills drawn upon him were the drawer's hand-writing, before he accepted and paid it them; but it was not incumbent on the defendant to inquire into it. See also Smith and another v. Mercer, 1 Marsh. 453. S. P. and Jones v. Ryde, id. 160.—Barber v. Gingel, 8 Esp. Rep. 60. ante, 224, 5.

Wilkinson v. Lutwidge, Stra. 648. In an action against the acceptor of a bill, Raymond, C. J. allowed the plaintiff to read the bill, without proving the drawer's hand, because he thought the acceptance a sufficient acknowledgment on the part of the defendant; but he said it would not be conclusive; and if the defendant could shew to the contrary, the reading of the bill should not preclude him.

Jenys v. Fawler, 2 Stra. 946. In an action against the acceptor of a bill, Raymond, C. J. held it was not necessary for the plaintiff to prove the drawer's hand, and on the defendant's calling witnesses to swear that they believed it was not the drawer's hand, the chief justice would not admit the evidence, and he inclined strongly that actual proof of forgery would not exonerate the defendant.

In Smith v. Chester, 1 T. R. 655. Buller, J. said, that when a bill is presented for acceptance, the acceptor looks to the hand-writing of the drawer, which he is afterwards precluded from disputing, and it is on that account he is liable, even though the bill is forged.

Per Dampier, J. in Bass v. Clive, 4 Maul. & Sel. 15. Suppose the drawer's name is forged, yet if the drawee accept the bill he is precluded from averring, as against strangers, that it is a forgery.

⁴ Leach v. Buchanan, 4 Esp. Ni. Pri. Ca. 226. The plaintiff, before he took a bill, sent a person with it to the defendant, to en-

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ance of which turns out to have been forged by an indorser, delivers it up to him and receives a fresh bill, he may recover upon the latter, unless there was an agreement between him and such indorser to stifle a prosecution for the forgery¹.

This obligation of the acceptor, it is said, is *irrevocable*². Thus in *Trimmer v. Oddy* and

quire whether the acceptance upon it were his hand-writing; the defendant said that it was, and that it would be duly paid. He now offered evidence of the actual forgery of the acceptance; but Lord Ellenborough held, that that proof would not discharge the defendant; that after having so accredited the bill, and induced a person to take it, he was bound to take it. Verdict for the plaintiff.

Cooper v. Le Blanc, 2 Stra. 1051. The plaintiff, on discounting a note, sent to the defendant to know whether an indorsement on it was his, and the defendant said it was, and the note would be paid when due, he would notwithstanding have given evidence by similitude of hands, that the indorsement was a forgery, but Lord Hardwicke would not allow it; he seemed inclined however to admit proof of actual forgery, but the defendant could not adduce it, and the plaintiff had a verdict. See *Wilkinson v. Lutwidge*, Stra. 648. ante, 241, note 3.

¹ *Wallace v. Hardacre*, 1 Campb. 45.

² Mar. 83.—Molloy, book 2. chap. x. pl. 28. page 103.—Laws of Hamburg, article 7.—Bayl. 88. In *Trimmer v. Oddy* and others, tried before Lord Kenyon, July, 12, 1800, Guildhall, London, Gibbs for plaintiff, Erskine for defendant; (M. S. and cited in *Bentinck v. Dorrein*, 6 East. 200.—See also Bayl. 88. in notes. Note, the declarations contained counts against the drawee for having mutilated the bill.) Lord Kenyon said, "If the drawee deface the bill, he is liable as acceptor. About forty years ago it was thought, that if a man wrote any thing upon a bill, he was to be bound as an acceptor; so that if a man had set down some sums of money, and cast them up on the back of the bill, that would amount to an acceptance. But this is a doctrine to which I cannot subscribe; but if a party put upon a bill that which essentially injures and defaces it, that makes him liable as acceptor. When the defendants had written an acceptance on the bill, they could not be allowed to strike it out again, the law gives no time to the party to change his mind, but if accepted by mistake, it might then be otherwise;" and Lord Kenyon said, he "inclined to think that in such case the drawee would not be liable." It is observed in Bayl. 88. note 2. that this case was cited in *Bentinck v. Dorrein*, 6 East. 200. and the Hamburg Ordinance was referred to, as having been recognized by Lord Kenyon, to be the law of merchants here; and Lord Ellenborough said, "the rule is certainly laid down in the Hamburg Ordinance, as stated that an acceptance once made cannot be revoked, though to be sure that leaves the question open as to what is an acceptance, whether it be perfected before the delivery of the bill." And Lawrence, J. in the last mentioned case, (6 East. 201.) said "when the general question shall arise, it will be worth considering how that which is not communicated to the holder, can be considered as an acceptance, while it is yet in the hands of the drawee, and where he obliterates it before any communication made to the holder." From this it would appear that Mr. J. Lawrence had taken the same view of this question as Pothier, who cites from La

Serra, C. 10. a case where the holder of a bill having left it for acceptance, the drawee, before he returned it, cancelled the acceptance which he had written and signed upon it, and it was adjudged that this acceptance was annulled, and observes, "La raison est, que le concours de volontés qui forme un contrat, est un concours de volontés que les parties se sont reciproquement declarees; sans cela, la volonté d'une partie ne peut acquérir de droit a l'autre partie, ni par conséquent être irrevocable. Suivant ces principes, pour que le contrat entre le propriétaire de la lettre et celui sur qui elle est tirée, soit parfait, il ne suffit pas que celui-ci ait en pendant quelque temps la volonté d'accepter la lettre, et qu'il ait écrit au bas qu'il l'acceptoit; tant qu'il n'a pas déclaré cette volonté au porteur, le contrat n'est pas parfait; il peut changer de volonté et rayer son acceptation." *Traité du Contrat de Change*, part 1, ch. 3. s. 3. pl. 44. See also *Emerigon Traité des Assurances*, ch. 2. s. 4. p. 45. who observes that La Serra, "pose en maxime, que tant que l'acceptant est maître de sa signature, c'est à dire, qu'il n'a pas délivré la lettre de change, il peut rayer son acceptation." See also *Stevenson on Bills*, p. 162. 164.

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Thornton v. Dick and others, 4 Esp. Rep. 270. A bill drawn on the defendants payable three months after sight, was, on the 1st of October, left with them by the plaintiffs for acceptance. It was not called for until the 11th, when it appeared, that the words "accepted 1st October, 1779, Q. Dick and Co." had been written upon the bill, and afterwards nearly obliterated by ink, the words, however, were still legible at the time of drawing the bill, the defendants were in advance to the drawer. The plaintiffs as indorsees sued the defendants as acceptors, the acceptance and subsequent cancellation were admitted, and the only question was, whether the cancellation having been made before the re-delivery of the bill had discharged the acceptor. But Lord Ellenborough said, that if a party once accepted a bill he had done the act, and could not retract, and that there was no difference in point of legal effect, whether the bill were payable after sight or after date. Verdict for the plaintiffs.

Roper and others v. Birkbeck and others, 15 East. 17. A bill of exchange having been accepted payable at Ladbroke's, with a direction in writing on it, "in case of need to apply at Boldero's," and having been dishonored when due at Ladbroke's, and thereupon brought to Boldero, who thinking that it had been made payable at his house, under that mistake cancelled the acceptance; but presently observing the mistake, wrote under it, "cancelled by mistake," and signed his initials to it; yet, nevertheless, paid the bill for the honor of the plaintiffs, whose indorsement was on it; it was held, that the plaintiffs, on the proof of such cancellation by mistake, might recover upon the bill against prior indorsers. Upon a motion for a new trial, Lord Ellenborough, C. J. said, I should have felt considerable pressure in the argument used on the behalf of the defendants, if the fact had borne them out. Undoubtedly the indorsees, generally speaking, are bound to return the bill to the indorsers in the same plight as they received it, and unchanged by any act of theirs; but I cannot consider the act of Boldero as the act of the indorsees, for he had no authority either express or implied from them to do the act, and the whole originated in his mistake. The case then comes to the instances put in argument at the trial, of a blot having fallen upon, or a child having torn or destroyed the instrument. In such cases the law is not so strict as to require the precise formal proof which is ordinarily required, for that would be at once to deprive the party of his remedy. I remember Pothier, in his treatise on Bills of Exchange, (2 vol. 114; partie 1. ch. 8. s. 3.) speaking of an acceptor

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others¹, and in *Thornton and others v. Dick and others*², it was holden, that if the drawee of a bill put his name on it as acceptor, he cannot afterwards, even before it has been delivered to the payee, discharge his acceptance by erasing his name; and in a subsequent case³, under similar circumstances Lord Ellenborough, C. J. observed, “that the rule is certainly laid down in the “Hamburgh Ordinance, that an acceptance once made “cannot be revoked; though to be sure, that leaves “the question open as to what is an acceptance, whether it be perfected before the delivery of the bill;” and Mr. J. Lawrence observed, “that when the general question shall arise it will be worth considering, “*how that which is not communicated to the holder “can be considered as an acceptance while it is yet “in the hands of the drawee, and where he obliterates “it before any communication made to the holder.*” According to the observations on Price and Shute in *Paton v. Winter*⁴, it should seem that an acceptance may be altered though the bill itself cannot be; and from the case of *Fernandez v. Glynn*⁵, it appears, that by the usage of trade in London a check may be retained by the banker on whom it is drawn till five in the afternoon of the day on which it is presented for payment and then returned, although it has previously been cancelled by mistake. But it is reported, that Lord Ellenborough said, “that had it been a bill sent for acceptance and accepted, no change of circumstances could have altered that fact.” It seems, there-

who put his signature to a bill; but has not parted with it, says, that before he does part with it, “il peut changer de volonté et rayer “son acceptation.” *A fortiori*, then, a third person who cancels an acceptance by mistake, having no authority so to do, shall not be held thereby to make void the bill, but shall be at liberty to correct that mistake, in furtherance of the rights of the parties to the bill. Per curiam. Rule discharged.

¹ *Trimmer v. Oddy and others*, ante, p. 242, n. 2.

² *Thornton v. Dick*, 4 Esp. Rep. 270. ante, p. 243.

³ *Bentinck v. Dorrein*, 6 East. 199.—2 Smith's Rep. 337. S. C. see post, 245.

⁴ *Paton v. Winter*, 1 Taunt. 423.

⁵ 1 Campb. 426. cited in *Roper v. Biskbeck*, 15 East. 19.

fore, that this point, as to the cancelling an acceptance, is not completely settled¹. There appears no reason why the drawee, before he has induced the holder to take or hold the bill on the credit of the acceptance, should not be at liberty to cancel his acceptance; the circumstance of the bill being thereby defaced cannot constitute any sufficient reason, why he should be liable as acceptor, for the holder is not prejudiced by the erasure, but may immediately resort to all the antecedent parties on the bill, and which also ought not to be put in circulation after the drawee has determined not to pay it². If a bill has been accepted by mistake, it seems that the drawee is at liberty, before he has delivered it to a third person, to cancel his acceptance³. At all events, if the holder of the bill, the acceptance of which has been so cancelled, cause it to be noted for non-acceptance, he will afterwards be precluded from insisting that the bill was accepted⁴.

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The liability of the acceptor cannot in general be *released* or *discharged*, otherwise than by payment or by express release or waiver⁵. If, however, by the

How this liability may be discharged.

¹ Bayl. 88, 9.

² As to this point of circulating a bill after it has been dishonoured, see *Roscow v. Hardy*, 12 East. 434.—2 Campb. 458. S. C. ante, 161, 2.

³ *Trimmer and Oddy*, ante, 242. note 2.

⁴ *Bentinck v. Dorrein and another*, 6 East. 199.—2 Smith's Rep. 377. S. C. This action, which was by the indorsee against the defendants as acceptors of a bill, was referred, and the arbitrator, after reciting in his award, that the plaintiff on the 31st May, left the bill with the defendants for acceptance, and they signed an acceptance thereon; but that on the 1st of June, *before the bill was called for*, they cancelled that acceptance, and that the plaintiff thereupon noted the bill for non-acceptance, declared himself to be of opinion that by such noting, the plaintiff had precluded himself from insisting that the defendants had bound themselves to pay the bill, and therefore awarded in favor of the defendants. A rule nisi was obtained for setting aside this award, on the ground that the acceptance was irrevocable. But after cause shewn, the court held, that whether such acceptance could or could not be revoked, the plaintiff had at all events, by noting the bill for non-acceptance, precluded himself from contending that the acceptance was valid. Rule discharged. *Sproat v. Matthews*, 1 T. R. 182, ante, 238.

⁵ Poth. pl. 76. 118.—Mar. 83, 145, 6.—*Bacon v. Searles*, 1 Hen. Bla. 88.—*Fentum v. Pocock*, 1 Marsh. 14.—5 Taunt. 192. S. C.

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laws of a foreign country, where the acceptance was made, and where it was to be performed, the obligation is by any act vacated, it will no longer have any obligatory force in this country¹; and by the consent of the holder, it may in all cases be waived or released, and the waiver may be either expressed or implied². With respect to the mode by which it may be waived or discharged, it may be observed, that the general rule of law is, that although a simple contract, *previously* to the breach of it, may be discharged by parol, yet, if it has once been *broken*, then it cannot be discharged without payment or a release in writing³; but in the case of a bill, it is otherwise; and the courts have gone so far as to decide, that what amounts to an assent to discharge the acceptor, is a question for the jury, arising out of the circumstances of the case⁴; from which it might be inferred, that any act

¹ Robertson v. French, 4 East. 130.—Burrows v. Jemino, Stra. 733.—Sel. Ca. 144. S. C. *et ante*, 120, 1.

Burrows v. Jemino, 2 Stra. 732. The plaintiff accepted a bill at Leghorn, and by the law there, if the drawer fails, and the acceptor hath not sufficient effects of the drawer in his hands at the time of the acceptance the acceptance becomes void. And this being the plaintiff's case he instituted a suit at Leghorn, and his acceptance was thereupon vacated by the sentence of that court. The plaintiff, on his return to England, was sued as acceptor, and now filed his bill for an injunction and relief. King, Lord Chancellor, held, that the plaintiff's acceptance of the bill having been vacated and declared void by a competent jurisdiction, that sentence was conclusive, and bound the court of chancery here, and granted a perpetual injunction to enjoin the defendant from suing upon this bill.

² Bayl. 90.

³ Fitch v. Sutton, 5 East. 230.—Rozal v. Lampen, 2 Mod. 43.—Edwards v. Weeks, *id.* 259.—Langden v. Stokes, Cro. Car. 383.—May v. King, Cases, K. B. 538.—Vin. Ab. tit. Release.—Com. Dig. tit. Pleader, 2 G. 13. *et tit.* Action on the Case in Assumpsit, G.—Heathcote v. Crookshanks, 2 T. R. 24.

⁴ Ellis v. Galindo, cited in Dingwall v. Dunster, Dougl. 247. James Galindo drew upon his brother for £30, in favor of the plaintiff. When the bill became due, James paid the plaintiff £3 15s. 4d. and indorsed a promise to pay the remainder in three months. Three years elapsed, and then plaintiff sued the drawee upon his acceptance. Lord Mansfield thought the defendant discharged, and nonsuited the plaintiff. An application was made for a new trial, when Lord Mansfield said, he thought the case did not interfere with Dingwall and Dunster, but a rule to shew cause was granted; after cause was shewn, Lord Mansfield said, the doubt is, whether the question should not have been left to the jury, it being a question of intention arising

indicating an intention to relinquish the right of action, will be sufficient: but that decision appears in some measure to be contradicted by the case of *Dingwall against Dunster*¹, where the court decided, that nothing but an *express* consent, or the statute of limitations, would discharge the acceptor; and that no indulgence to him or to the drawer would have that operation; and in a late case it was decided, that though the holder of a bill may discharge the liability of the acceptor by parol, yet for this purpose, the words must amount to an absolute renunciation of all claim upon him in respect of the bill². It has also

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out of the circumstances. Willes, J. I thought it should have been left to the jury; and per Buller, J. I rather think the case should have gone to the jury; but I am not therefore of opinion, that there ought to be a new trial, the indorsement could not have been meant as an additional security, for the drawer was equally liable before, I should have left the question to the jury, but with very strong observations, and as the demand is so small I do not think there ought to be a new trial. Rule discharged.

¹ *Dingwall v. Dunster*, Dougl. 247. et vid. *Anderson v. Cleland*, 1 Esp. Rep. 46.—*Byrn v. Godfrey*, 4 Ves. jun. 8.—*Anderson v. Cleland*, 13 East. 430.

Dingwall v. Dunster, Dougl. 235. 247. Dunster lent Wheate his acceptance, which became due the 13th December, 1774. It was then in the hands of Dingwall; but he finding that Wheate was the real debtor, wrote to his attorney in February and November 1775, for payment, received interest upon the bill from Wheate, and suffered several years to elapse, without calling on Dunster. On 13th February, 1775, Dunster wrote to thank Dingwall for not proceeding against him, and said, he had been informed by a person Dingwall had sent, that Wheate had taken up the bill; but Dingwall took no notice of this letter; he afterwards sued Dunster, for whom the jury found; but upon a rule to shew cause why there should not be a new trial, the whole court held, that there was nothing in the plaintiff's conduct to discharge Dunster; that it meant nothing more than an indulgence to him, and that he would try to recover from the drawer if he could; but by Lord Mansfield, no use has been made of the defendant's letter; probably the fact did not warrant him in asserting that a person the plaintiff sent had told him Wheate had taken up the bill; had the plaintiff by any thing in his conduct confirmed him in such a belief it might have altered the case, Bayl. 92.

Anderson v. Cleveland, 13 East. 430. 1 Esp. Rep. 46. In an action by an indorsee against the acceptor of a bill, no demand was proved till three months after the bill was due, and when the drawer had become insolvent; but per Lord Mansfield, the acceptor of a bill or the maker of a note always remains liable. The acceptance is a proof of having assets in his hands, and he ought never to part with them unless he be sure that the bill is paid by the drawer, Bayl. 93.

² *Whatley v. Tricker*, 1 Campb. Rep. 35. The indorsees of a bill knowing that it had been accepted for the accommodation of the

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been adjudged, that a release by the holder to the drawee, after the bill is drawn, and before acceptance, will not discharge him from the obligation raised by a subsequent acceptance, because he was not chargeable at the time of the release¹. And where the drawer of a bill of exchange, accepted by defendant, agreed with him and the rest of his creditors to take a composition of eight shillings in the pound, to be secured by promissory notes, to be given by defendant payable on days certain, and that defendant should assign to the creditors certain debts upon which they should execute a general release, and the assignment was executed, and all the creditors except the plaintiff received their composition and executed the release, and plaintiff might have received his promissory notes if he had applied for them; but it did not appear that defendant had ever tendered them to plaintiff, or that he had ever applied for them, and the plaintiff afterwards, and after the days of payment of the promissory notes had expired, sued the defendant on the bill of exchange, it was held that he was not precluded by the agreement from recovering². But a general release by the drawer of a bill to the acceptor will, as between them, discharge the acceptor; though the drawer is not the holder, nor has then paid the bill³.

drawer, and possessing goods of the drawer's, from the produce of which they expected payment, said (at a meeting of the acceptors' creditors), that "they looked to the drawer, and should not come upon the acceptors." In consequence of which the latter assigned their property for the benefit of their creditors, and paid them 15s. in the pound. The drawer's goods however proved to be of little value, and he became insolvent, upon which the indorsees sued the acceptors. Lord Ellenborough said, that if the plaintiff's language amounted to an unconditional renunciation of all claim upon the acceptors, whereby the latter had entered into an arrangement with their creditors, the acceptors were discharged, if only to a conditional promise not to resort to the acceptors if satisfied, elsewhere they were not. The jury found for the plaintiff. Bayl. 90.

¹ *Drage v. Netter*, Lord Raym. 65.

² *Cranley v. Hillary*, 2 M. & S. 120.

³ *Scott v. Lifford*, 1 Campb. 250.

What amounts to a waiver, and discharge of the acceptor's liability, must depend on the circumstances of each particular case. An agreement to consider an acceptance as at end¹; or a message by the holder to the acceptor of an accommodation bill, that the business has been settled with the drawer, and that he need not give himself any further trouble²; have been holden to amount to a waiver of an acceptance. But it should seem, that the holder's receiving a part of the money due on a bill from the drawer, and taking a promise from him upon the back of it for the payment of the residue at an enlarged time, will not of itself amount to a discharge of the acceptor³. It has been decided, that if the holder of a bill of exchange agree not to sue the acceptor, upon his making affidavit that the acceptance is a forgery, and such affidavit be accordingly made and sworn, he cannot afterwards bring an action on the bill, though the affidavit be false⁴.

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of acceptor ; and
how discharged. ..

When a bill is accepted in consideration of the future consignment of goods to the acceptor, and the prospect of the profit of the commission on the sale thereof, and the holder of the bill aware of the nature of the acceptance, agree to take, and receives the bill of lading, &c. from the acceptor, which were the consideration of the acceptance, the acceptor is by this act of the holder discharged from the liability.

¹ Walpole v. Pulteney, cited Dougl. 236, 7. 248, 9. Walpole held a bill accepted by Pulteney, but agreed to consider his acceptance at an end, and wrote in his bill book, opposite to the entry of this bill, "Mr. Pulteney's acceptance is at an end." Walpole kept the bill from 1772 to 1775, without calling upon Pulteney, and then brought this action. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff; but the court of exchequer thought the verdict wrong, and granted a new trial, upon which the jury found for the defendant. Bayl. 90.

² Black v. Peele, cited Dougl. 236, 7, 248, 9. Black arrested Peele as acceptor of a bill drawn by Dallas, but on finding that the acceptance was an accommodation one, his attorney took a security from Dallas, and sent word to Peele, that he had settled with Dallas, and that he need not give himself any further trouble. Dallas afterwards became bankrupt, upon which Black again sued Peele; but it was held that as Black had, in express words, discharged Peele, the action could not be maintained. Bayl. 90.

³ Ellis v. Galindo, ante, 246, n. 4.

⁴ Stevens v. Thacker, Peake, 187.—Lloyd v. Willan, 1 Esp. Rep. 178.

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imposed on him by his acceptance¹. He is also discharged when, as has been before observed, the holder, upon an offer by the drawee of a conditional or partial acceptance, gives a general notice of non-acceptance to any of the antecedent parties, omitting to mention in such notice the nature of the acceptance offered².

But the drawee will not be discharged from liability in the case of an acceptance payable at a banker's, by the holder's neglect to present it there, although he can prove that he has sustained damages in consequence of such neglect³, and though it is reported to have been decided at *Nisi Prius*, that an accommodation acceptor will be discharged by the holder's giving time to the drawer after having notice that the bill was accepted for his accommodation⁴: yet it has been since decided, that the holder's giving such time or taking a *cognovit* from the drawer, though he have notice that the bill was accepted for the accommodation of such drawer, will not discharge the acceptor⁵.

¹ *Mason v. Hunt*, Dougl. 284. 297. Rowland Hunt agreed that his partner, Thomas Hunt, should, on consignment of a cargo, and an order for its insurance, accept bills for £3,600. The cargo was consigned, the order for insurance given, and Thomas Hunt effected the insurance, but he refused to accept the bills. After some negotiation, the plaintiff, being the holder, signed a memorandum, by which, after stating that the consignment had been made on account of the bills, and that the Hunts being apprehensive that the net proceeds might not be sufficient to discharge them, had refused to accept, he accepted the bill of lading and policy, and undertook to apply the net proceeds, when in cash, as far as they would go, to the credit of the payee, in part payment of the bills. The plaintiff afterwards sued the Hunts, and insisted that Rowland Hunt's agreement was an acceptance; but after a verdict for the defendant, and time taken to consider, upon a rule to shew cause why there should not be a new trial, the whole court was clear, that by the memorandum the plaintiff had waived all right to insist upon Rowland Hunt's agreement, for it was obvious, that the whole consideration of the acceptance was the consignment, upon which there would be a commission, and the policy and these the plaintiff had taken to himself.

² *Sproat v. Matthews*, 1 T. R. 182.—*Bentinck v. Dorrein*, 6 East. 199. ante, 244, 5.

³ *Sebag v. Abitbol*, 4 M. & S. 462.—and see post, as to presentment.

⁴ *Paxton v. Peat*, 2 Campb. 185.

⁵ *Fentum v. Pocock*, 1 Marsh. 14.—5 Taunt. 192, S. C. This was an action against the acceptor of a bill of exchange, and at the trial the plaintiff had a verdict with liberty for the defendant to move to enter a nonsuit, on the ground that he was discharged by the plaintiff

If, however, an acceptor, in satisfaction of his liability, indorse another bill, and the holder be guilty of laches, with respect to the latter, in not giving notice to such acceptor of the non-payment of the latter bill, he will thereby discharge such acceptor¹; but if the latter merely handed over the second bill as a collateral security, without indorsing it, he would not be discharged from liability on the first bill, by any laches of the holder of the second².

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We have seen that the *alteration* of the bill, or of the acceptance, without the concurrence of the acceptor, and even in some cases with his assent, will discharge him from liability³. And where the drawer of a bill accepted, payable at B. and Co. after keeping it three or four years, indorsed it to the plaintiffs, erasing the name of B. and Co. without the knowledge

having taken a cognovit from the drawer; and upon motion accordingly, and cause shewn, the court held, that the acceptor binds himself at all times to pay the holder (though not perhaps the drawer) until discharged by payment or release, and that though it were an accommodation bill, that would not alter the circumstances and discharge the rule.

Mallet v. Thompson, 5 Esp. Rep. 178. The plaintiff, holder of an accommodation note, who took it with full notice that the maker had received no value from the indorsee, for whose accommodation the defendant made it, and received a composition, and covenanted not to sue such indorsee, may, notwithstanding, sue the maker, though, on payment of it, he will have a right of action against the indorsee.

Harrison v. Cooke, 3 Campb. 362. Where upon an accommodation bill becoming due, it was presented for payment to the acceptor; and he promised to pay it, it was held that he was not discharged, by time being afterwards given without his consent to the drawer by the indorsee, who knew that it had been accepted for the drawer's accommodation.

In *Carstairs v. Rolleston*, 5 Taunt. 551. 1 Marsh. 207. S. C. it was discussed, but not determined, whether a release to the indorsee of an accommodation note, discharged the maker, if the holder was aware at the time of all the circumstances.

¹ *Bridges v. Berry*, 3 Taunt. 130.

² *Bishop v. Rowe*, 3 M. & S. 362.—*Hickling v. Hardy*, 7 Taunt. 312.

³ Ante, 130 to 136.—*Long v. Moore*, 3 Esp. 155. n. A bill of exchange, after acceptance, had been altered by inserting the word "date" in the place of "sight." The plaintiff wanted to go on the common counts, and offered in evidence another bill drawn upon the defendant for the same amount, but not accepted. Lord Kenyon held, that the plaintiff could not recover against the defendant, for he was liable only by virtue of the instrument, which being vitiated, his liability was at an end.

4thly. *Liability of acceptor; and how discharged.*

of the acceptor; B. and Co. having failed since the acceptance, it was held that the acceptor was thereby discharged¹. And though there is a case in which it has been supposed to have been decided, that if the holder strike out an acceptance, which varies from the tenor of the bill, and substitutes an acceptance according to the tenor, he may afterwards restore the acceptance he struck out, and that such acceptance will continue binding²; yet it has been doubted whether the determination went further than to decide that the alteration in the acceptance, (though it annulled the acceptance, and discharged the acceptor) did not destroy the bill as to the other parties³.

Liability of a party promising to pay a bill.

Besides the *liability to pay* a bill of exchange incurred by the act of accepting it, the drawee or another person may subject himself to liability to pay the amount out of money then in his hands, or which he may afterwards receive, and this, although the bill itself may be invalid; as where it has been drawn on an agent requesting him to pay a sum of money out of a particular fund, though we have seen that such instrument will be wholly void as a bill of exchange, because the payment of it depends upon a contin-

¹ Tidmarsh v. Grover, 1 M. & S. 735 ante, 133.

² Price v. Shute, Beawes, s. 222. 1st edit. p. 444.—Moll. b. 2. c. 10. s. 28. A bill was drawn, payable 1st of January, and the drawee accepted it to pay the 1st of March: the holder struck out the 1st of March, and substituted the 1st of January, and sent the bill for payment on that day, which the acceptor refused; the holder then struck out the 1st of January, and restored the 1st of March. And in an action on this bill, the question was, whether these alterations did not destroy the bill, and Pemberton, C. J. ruled that they did not. And see observations in Paton v. Winter, 1 Taunt. 423.—Bayl. 87.

³ Master v. Miller, 4 T. R. 330. Lord Kenyon, in commenting on the case of Price v. Shute, observes, that the books do not say against whom the action was brought, and it could not have been against the acceptor, because his acceptance was struck out by the party himself who brought the action; and he concludes, "that on the person, to whom the bill was directed, refusing to accept the bill, as it was originally drawn, the holder resorted to the drawer;" however Buller, J. 4 T. R. 336. says, "that he cannot consider this case in any other light than as an action against the acceptor, because the books only state what passed between the holder and the acceptor."—And see Paton v. Winter, 1 Taunt. 423.—Bayl. 87.

gency¹. Yet if the drawee promise to pay the amount when he shall receive funds, and the holder in consequence retains the bill, the amount, when received, will be recoverable from the drawee under the common count for money had and received². So a draft on the executor of a debtor, which the executor promised to discharge on his receiving assets is an equitable assignment of the debt, available against assignees

Liability of a party promising to pay a bill.

¹ Ante, 56.

² *Stevens v. Hill*, 5 Esp. Rep. 247. This was an action of assumpsit; the first count was against the defendant as the acceptor of a bill of exchange drawn by Admiral Smith on the defendant his agent; the others were the money counts. The bill had been burnt by accident, and the plaintiff gave parol evidence of it. The defendant was a navy-agent, and the bill was drawn by Admiral Smith, in this form, "out of my half-pay which will become due on the 1st of January, pay to Stevens £15." This was brought to Hill, who said he had then no money of Admiral Smith's in his hands, but that he would pay it out of the admiral's money when he received it. Admiral Smith was called, he produced an account furnished by Hill as his agent, containing an account of money received at different times on the admiral's account, and also of the bills drawn by him on Hill, on which there was a balance of £41 due to Hill. It was objected by Garrow, first, that the plaintiff could not recover on the count on the bill, as it appeared to be not a bill of exchange, it being drawn on a particular fund, and not payable generally, which was necessary to constitute a legal bill of exchange. This count was abandoned by the Solicitor-General, who said, that he should go on the count for money had and received. To this it was answered, that the engagement of Hill was to pay the bill when he had money of Admiral Smith's in his hands, and that it appeared by the count which was produced by Admiral Smith, that the admiral was the debtor of Hill, and of course that Hill had no funds in his hands out of which only the bill was to be paid. Lord Ellenborough having taken the papers produced, in which the receipts of money and entries of bills were put under their respective dates, observed, that though on the general balance, a sum of £40 was due to the defendant, yet by referring to dates it would appear that Hill, after the day the bill was brought to him for acceptance, and after his declaration as proved, and before he had been called upon to make any payment, had received money of Admiral Smith's more than sufficient to answer the bill, it was therefore his duty to have reserved for that bill, and not to have paid other drafts subsequently drawn; he was not therefore protected by subsequent payments. His Lordship added, that a similar case of an army agent occurred before Lord Kenyon, in which the agent had promised to pay the draft of a person on him, and having neglected to do so, an action was brought; that he was of counsel for the defendant in that cause, and argued that this promise of the agent was nudum pactum, but Lord Kenyon over-ruled the objection, and held, that it was an appropriation of so much to the use of the holder of the draft, and made him liable on the receipt of any money upon the credit of which it was drawn.—*De Bernales v. Fuller*, cited in 14 East. 590. n. n. 598. S. P.

Liability of a party promising to pay a bill.

in bankruptcy¹. But as a chose in action is not assignable so as to enable the assignee to sue the original debtor merely by virtue of such assignment, it follows, that unless the third person who has funds in hand, expressly promises to pay, and such promise be accepted, the holder of the bill cannot sue him²; and if before the party offer to pay the bill it has been retained for non-acceptance³, the holder has no remedy against such party.

¹ *Ex parte Alderson and another*, 1 Maddox, 53, 55.—2 Rose, 13. App. Jane Row became indebted to the petitioners in £525, and being a creditor of the estate of John Fish, deceased, gave them a draft on the executor as follows:—“Please to pay Messrs. G. and T. Alderson, or order, four hundred and seventeen pounds, six shillings, as part of the amount due to me for plumber’s work done for the late John Fish, Esq. Jane Row.” The petitioners presented the draft to the executor, but he, not being prepared with assets, did not accept it, but retained it, to be paid when there should be funds. The Vice-Chancellor.—“This is a good equitable assignment; the executor bound himself to pay when in possession of assets.”

² *Williams v. Everett and others*, 14 East. Rep. 582. Kelly residing abroad, having remitted bills on England to the defendants, his bankers, in London, with directions in the letters inclosing such bills, to pay the amount in certain specified proportions to the plaintiff and other creditors of Kelly, who would produce their letters of advice from him on the subject, and desiring the amount paid to each person to be put on their respective bills, and that every bill paid off, should be cancelled; and the plaintiff having, before the bills became due, given notice to the defendants that he had received a letter from Kelly, ordering payment of his debt out of that remittance, and having offered them an indemnity if they would hand over one of the bills to him, but the defendants having refused to indorse the bill away, or to act upon the letter, admitting, however, that they had received the directions to apply the money, and the defendants having in fact afterwards received the money on the bills when due, held that they did not by the mere act of receiving the bills and afterwards the produce of them, with such directions, and without any assent on their part to the purport of the letter, and still more against their express dissent, bind themselves to the plaintiff so to apply the money in discharge of his debt due to him from Kelly, and consequently that the plaintiff, between whom and the defendants there was no privity of contract, express or implied, but on the contrary, it was repudiated, could not maintain his action against the defendants as for money had and received by them to his own use, but that the property in the bills and their produce still continued in the remitter. And see *Assignees of Holland v. ———*, 1 Salk. 149.—*Williamson v. Thompson*, 16 Ves. jun. 442.

³ *Stewart and another v. Fry and another*, 1 Moore’s Rep. 74. Where persons have received money for the express purpose of taking up a bill of exchange two days after it became due, and upon tendering it to the holders and demanding the bill, find that they have sent it back protested for non-acceptance to the persons who indorsed it to

In the case of an acceptance for the accommodation of the drawer, it is usual to take from the drawer a *written* undertaking to indemnify him, which, when it is for a sum above £20, should be stamped as an agreement; but where there is any risk of bankruptcy, it is advisable to take a counter bill or note so as to enable the acceptor to prove under the commission against the drawer¹. In the absence of any express contract, the law implies a contract to indemnify². And it should seem, that if an agent has accepted bills for the accommodation of his employer, he may in some cases retain money in his hands to discharge it, unless the bill be delivered up to him, or he be otherwise sufficiently indemnified³. And where a sum of money has been lodged with a party to indemnify him against bills of exchange he has accepted for the accommodation of another, an action will not lie against him to recover the money while the bills are outstanding, although the statute of limitations has run upon them⁴. And where a person who has funds in his hands belonging to another, or is otherwise indebted to him, accepts a bill for his accommodation, and the drawer afterwards commits an act of bankruptcy, or becomes insolvent, such acceptor may retain the funds or debt until the bill becomes due, as an indemnity against his liability as acceptor⁵. And since the 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. s. 8. an accommodation acceptor, being in the nature of a surety to the drawer,

Indemnity to acceptor and his right.

them. Held, that such persons having received fresh orders not to pay the bill, were not liable to an action by the holders for money had and received, when upon the bills being re-procured and tendered to them, they refused to pay the money.

¹ See post as to the proof of a bill by surety, and as to cross paper.

² Young v. Hockley, 3 Wils. 346. and 262.—Sparkes v. Martindale, 8 East. 593. As to what damages the sureties may recover, even costs in error, see 3 Wils. 13.—1 Atk. 262.

³ Madden v. Kempster, 1 Campb. 12.—Ex parte Metcalfe, 11 Ves. 407.

⁴ Morse v. Williams, 3 Campb. 418.

⁵ Wilkins v. Casey, 7 T. R. 711. as observed upon in Willis v. Freeman, 12 East. 659.—11 Ves. jun. 407.—1 Campb. 12.

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may prove under the commission against him, although he has been obliged to pay the bill after the act of bankruptcy¹.

Sect. 3.—Of non-acceptance, and the conduct which the holder must thereupon pursue.

THE inquiry into the conduct which the holder of a bill of exchange should pursue on a neglect or refusal to accept at all, or on the offer of a condition or partial acceptance, may be made under the following heads :

First, *When notice is requisite.*

Secondly, *The mode of giving notice.*

Thirdly, *The time when it must be given.*

Fourthly, *By whom it must be given.*

Fifthly, *To whom it should be given.*

Sixthly, *Of the liability of the parties on receiving notice.*

Lastly, *Of the consequences of the holder's neglect to give notice, and how waived, &c.*

1st, When notice of non-acceptance is necessary, and consequence of laches.

It has already been observed, that a presentment for acceptance is only necessary when a bill is made payable within a certain period *after sight*². If, however, in that or any other case, a bill be presented, and an acceptance be refused, or only a conditional or partial acceptance be offered, notice should immediately be given to the persons to whom the holder means to resort for payment, or they will in general be totally discharged from *their respective liabilities*, not only on the bill of exchange, but the original consideration of it³; and it is not sufficient for the holder to wait till the time mentioned in the bill for payment has elapsed, and then to give notice of non-acceptance

¹ See post, Chap. on Bankruptcy.—Ex parte Yonge, 3 Ves. & Bea. 46.—Stedman v. Mortimer, 13 East. 427.

² Ante, 206.

³ Ante, 125, 6, 7, 8.—Bridges v. Berry, 3 Taunt. 130.—Rucker v. Hiller, 16 East. 43.—Bayl. 167.

as well as of non-payment¹. But we have seen that a bonâ fide holder, to whom a bill has been transferred after refusal to accept, is not affected by the neglect of any previous holder in giving notice of that fact². And if the bill were given on a wrong stamp, the neglect to present it for acceptance or give notice of the refusal may not prejudice³; and if the bill were given only as a collateral security, and the party delivering it were no party to it, he will not in such case be discharged from his original liability by the laches of the holder⁴. And, as no laches can be imputed to the crown, if a bill be seized under an extent before it is due, the neglect of the officer of the crown to give notice of the dishonour, will not discharge the drawer or indorsers⁵. The reason why the law requires the holder to give due notice of non-acceptance by the drawee is, that the anterior parties to the bill may respectively take the necessary measures to obtain payment from the parties respectively liable to them, and if notice be not given it is a presumption of law, that the drawer and indorsers are prejudiced by the omission; and it is on this principle that notice of non-acceptance and non-payment are required⁶.

1st, When notice of non-acceptance is necessary.

From some cases to be found in the books⁷ it appears to have been formerly holden, that it was incumbent on the person insisting on the want of notice, to prove that he had really sustained damage by the

¹ Roscow v. Hardy, 2 Campb. 458.—12 East. 434. S. C.—Blesard v. Hirst, 5 Burr. 2670.—Goodall v. Dolley, 1 T. R. 712.—Anonymous, 1 Ventr. 45.—Poth. pl. 133.—Dagglish v. Weatherby, 2 Bla. Rep. 747. per Lord Ellenborough, in Orr v. Maginnis, 7 East. 362.—3 & 4 Ann. c. 9. s. 7.

² Ante, 161, n. 1.—Selw. 4th ed. 319.

³ Ante, 75.—Wilson v. Vysar, 4 Taunt. 288.

⁴ Ante, 126, 7, 8.—Warrington v. Furber, 8 East. 242.

⁵ West on Extents, 28, 9.

⁶ Whitfield v. Savage, 2 Bos. & Pul. 280, 1.—Orr v. Maginnis, 7 East. 362.

⁷ Mogadara v. Holt, 1 Show. 318.—12 Mod. 15. S. C.—Butler v. Play, 1 Mod. 27.—Sarsfield v. Weatherby, Comb. 152.—Bickerdike v. Eollman, 1 T. R. 406.—Vin. Ab. tit. Bills of Exchange, M.—Poth. pl. 157, 8.—Postlethw. tit. Bills of Exchange, 16, 17.—Whitfield v. Savage, 2 Bos. & Pul. 280, 1.

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laches of the holder; but it has been settled by later decisions, that such damage is to be presumed, and that the only excuse for the omission is the proof of the want of effects in the hands of the drawee¹; and it is always presumed, till the contrary appears, that the drawer of a bill has effects in the drawee's hands, and that the indorser or assignor has given value for it, and consequently that each may have sustained a loss by the holder's neglect to give notice², by which the chance of obtaining satisfaction from the parties liable to them, must necessarily be rendered more precarious.

But if the drawer of a bill, from the time of making it to the time when it was due, had *no effects* in the hands of the drawee or acceptor, and the bill was drawn for the accommodation of such drawer, he is *prima facie* not entitled to notice of the dishonour of the bill³; nor can he object, in such case, that a fo-

¹ Bayl. 133. n. 1.—*Dennis v. Morrice*, 3 Esp. Rep. 158. In an action on a bill brought by an indorsee against the drawer, it appeared, that no notice had been given to the defendant of non-payment by the acceptor, to excuse which, the plaintiff offered to prove, that in fact, the defendant had not been prejudiced by the want of such notice. But Lord Kenyon said, the only case in which notice is dispensed with is, where the drawer has no effects in the hands of the drawee. This would be extending the rule still further than ever has been done, and opening new sources of litigation, in investigating whether in fact the drawer did receive a prejudice from the want of notice or not. He rejected the evidence, and nonsuited the plaintiff. See *vide* Pothier *Traité du Contrat de Change*, part 1. chap. 5. num. 157, 8.

² Per Buller, J. in *Bickerdike v. Bollman*, 1 T. R. 406, 409.—*Tatlock v. Harris*, 3 T. R. 182.—Anonymous, Ventr. 45.—*Nicholson v. Gouthit*, 2 Hen. Bla. 612.—*Mogadara v. Holt*, 1 Show. 317.

³ *Legge v. Thorpe*, 2 Campb. 310. 12 East. 171. S. C. where the rule, principle, and inconveniences are stated; and see *Walwyn v. St. Quintin*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 654, 5.—*Clegg v. Cotton*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 241, 2.—*Gale v. Walsh*, 5 T. R. 239.—Poth. pl. 157.—*Bickerdike v. Bollman*, 1 T. R. 405.—*Goodall v. Dolley*, id. 712.—*Rogers v. Stephens*, 2 T. R. 713.—*Nicholson v. Gouthit*, 2 Hen. Bla. 610.—*Staples v. Okines*, 1 Esp. Rep. 333.—*Wilkes v. Jacks*, Peake's Ca. N. P. 202. The progress of the cases on this subject is also stated in *Brown v. Maffey*, 15 East. 216.—See also Bayl. 131, 2, 137.

Bickerdike and another, assignees of *Reichard v. Bollman*, 1 T. R. 405. The only question upon a case reserved was, whether the bill the bankrupt had drawn in favour of the petitioning creditor, upon a man, who then, and from that time, till the bill became due, was one of the bankrupt's creditors, had discharged so much of the peti-

foreign bill should have been protested¹. In this case, the drawer, being himself the real debtor, acquires no right of action against the acceptor by paying the bill, and suffers no injury from want of notice of non-acceptance or non-payment, and therefore the laches of the holder affords him no defence².

1st. When notice of non-acceptance is necessary; and what excuses omission.

But it is no excuse for not giving notice to the indorser of a bill, that the acceptor had no effects of

tioning creditors debts, no notice having been given of its dishonour to the bankrupt; and the court, after argument, were of opinion it had not, because the reason why notice is in general necessary is, that the drawer may without delay, withdraw his effects from the drawee, and that no injury may happen to him from want of notice; but where the drawer has no effects in the hands of the drawee, he cannot be injured, and is not entitled to any notice. In *Brown v. Maffey*, 15 East. 221. Lord Ellenborough, C. J. observed, that the doctrine of dispensing with notice of the dishonour of a bill, had grown almost entirely out of this case, and that though there might have been previous decisions to the same effect at Nisi Prius, yet none had been brought in revision before the court till this case; that decision dispensed with notice to the drawer, where he knew before-hand he had no effects in the hands of the drawee, and had no reason to expect that the bill would be paid when it became due.

Goodall v. Dolley, 1 T. R. 712. In this case, upon the application for a new trial, the plaintiff's counsel offered an affidavit that the drawer had no effects in the hands of the drawee; but the court thought that made no difference, the action being brought against the payee; but by Buller, J. had the action been against the drawer I should have been willing to let in the affidavit, that would be the like case of *Bickerdike v. Bollman*. If the drawer has no effects in the hands of the drawee, he cannot be injured by want of notice.

Legge v. Thorpe, 12 East's Rep. 171.—2 Campb. 310. S. C. This was an action by an indorsee against the drawer of a foreign bill, drawn upon C. B. Wyatt, payable one month after sight, of which acceptance had been refused. The declaration negatived effects in the hands of the drawee, or any consideration for the bill. It appeared, at the trial, that the defendant had no effects in Wyatt's hands, and that the latter had therefore refused acceptance; but that Wyatt was one of the executors of Weeks, and that Weeks' executors had desired the defendant to employ the payee of this bill to do some carpenter's work on Weeks' property, and the defendant drew this bill on Wyatt for the payment of the payee, Wyatt denied that he had assets to pay the bill. The only question was, whether a protest for non-acceptance were necessary; Lord Ellenborough thought not; and a verdict was given for the plaintiff; but the point was reserved, and on a rule nisi for nonsuit, and cause shewn, the whole court held that this case was governed by those of *Bickerdike v. Bollman*, 1 T. R. 405. and *Rogers v. Stevens*, 2 T. R. 713. and discharged the rule.

¹ *Legge v. Thorpe*, 2 Campb. 310.—12 East. 171. S. C.—see the last note.

² Per Chambre, J. in *Leach v. Hewitt*, 4 Taunt. 783.

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*the drawer*¹. And although no consideration passed between the payee and drawer of a bill of exchange, it is not to be considered an accommodation bill as to the latter, if there was a valuable consideration as between the payee and the acceptor². So a person, who, without consideration, but without fraud, endorsed a bill, the drawer and acceptor of which proved to be fictitious persons, is entitled to due notice of the dishonour, or he will be discharged³.

It has been decided, that where a bill has been drawn for the accommodation of the payee, and the drawer had no effects in the hands of the drawee, though the payee had, such drawer is not entitled to

¹ Wilks v. Jacks, Peake Rep. 202. In an action against the defendant, as indorser of a bill, drawn by Vaughan on Eustace and Holland, it appeared, that notice had not been given to the defendant, upon which the plaintiff offered to shew, that Vaughan had no effects in the hands of Eustace and Holland. Sed per Lord Kenyon, C. J. "That circumstance will not avail the plaintiff, the rule extends only to actions brought against the drawer; the indorser is in all cases entitled to notice, for he has no concern with the accounts between the drawer and the drawee." The plaintiff then proved a letter from the defendant, acknowledging the debt, and promising to pay, and upon *that* he had a verdict.

² Scott v. Lifford, 1 Campb. 246. Payee against the drawer of a bill of exchange; the defence was, that the bill was drawn without consideration, and that the plaintiffs had received satisfaction. Agar having an acceptance due to the plaintiffs, requested it renewed, to which they consented, provided that the defendant would draw a bill upon Agar for the amount which he was to accept, and which was accordingly done. Agar also lodged policies of insurance to a large amount with the plaintiffs, by way of collateral security, upon which a certain per centage had since been awarded, due upon them. Lord Ellenborough held, that the bill was not an accommodation bill, there having been a consideration between the payees and acceptor, and that if it had been proved that the plaintiffs had received any thing upon the policies, that would pro tanto be a satisfaction, that the plaintiffs were entitled to recover the whole sum mentioned in the bill, and must deliver up the policies or refund the money received under them.

³ Leach v. Hewitt, 4 Taunt. 731. This was an action against the defendant, as indorser of a bill of exchange, purporting to be drawn by Rogers, Crooke, & Co. and dated from the Northampton Bank, and purporting to be accepted by Rogers & Co. Lombard Street, in favor of the defendant. It appeared, at the trial, that the defendant had indorsed the bill at the request of one Cattle, and that it had come to the hands of the plaintiff for a valuable consideration. When the bill became due, no such persons as Rogers & Co. were to be found in Lombard Street, nor the drawers at Northampton. After four days, the plaintiff found the defendant, who lived in Clerkenwell. The defence was, that he had not had due notice of the dishonour of

notice of non-payment¹; but this decision seems questionable, for whenever a party to a bill is entitled to his remedy over against another party, he may be prejudiced by the delay in giving him notice of the dishonour².

1st, When notice of non-acceptance is necessary; and what excuses omission.

It has also been holden, that if the payee of a note lend his name merely to give it credit, and to enable the maker to raise money upon it, and knows at the time, that the maker is insolvent, he is not entitled to notice, and that it is no defence for him that the note was not properly presented for payment³. But as the

the bill. There was no evidence that the defendant was party to the fraud. Mansfield, C. J. directed the jury, that if the conduct of the defendant was not fraudulent he was entitled to notice, and the jury finding that the defendant was not privy to the fraud, the plaintiff was nonsuited; and upon a rule to set aside the nonsuit, and have a new trial, the court held, that the defendant was entitled to notice, and discharged the rule.

¹ Walwyn v. St. Quintin, 1 Bos. & Pul. 652.—2 Esp. 515. S. C. In an action by the indorsee against the drawer of a bill, it appeared to have been drawn to accommodate the payee, who had placed securities, on which he wished to raise money, in the hands of the acceptor; the defendant had no effects in the hands of the drawee, and no notice having been given to him of the dishonour of the bill, the question was, whether that were made necessary by the payee's having effects in the hands of the drawee. Eyre, C. J. directed a verdict for the defendant, with liberty for the plaintiff to move to enter a verdict for him. After a rule nisi accordingly, and cause shewn, the court held, that the defendant was not entitled to notice. Postea to the plaintiff on another ground.

² See Smith v. Beckett, 13 East. 187. post, 262, and Brown v. Maffey, 15 East. 216. post, 262. Bayl. 136, 7.

³ De Berdt v. Atkinson, 2 Hen. Bla. 336. In an action against the payee of a note, it appeared that the note was not presented for payment till the day after it became due, and that no notice was given to the defendant till five days after such presentment, but it also appearing that the defendant gave no value for the note; that he lent his name merely to give it credit, and that he knew at the time the maker was insolvent. Eyre, C. J. directed the jury to find for the plaintiff, which they did. A rule to shew cause why a new trial should not be granted, and upon cause shewn, Eyre, C. J. said, if the maker is not known to be insolvent, insolvency will not excuse the want of an early demand, but knowledge excludes all presumption which would otherwise arise; here the money was to be raised upon the defendant's credit; he meant to guarantee the payment, and no loss could happen to him from the want of notice. And per Buller, J. The general rule is only applicable to fair transactions where the bill or note has been given for value, in the ordinary course of trade. It is said, insolvency does not take away the necessity of notice; that is true, where a value has been given, but no further; here the defendant lent his name merely to give credit to the note, and was not an indorser in the common course of business,"

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payee would in that case, upon paying the note, have a clear right of action against the maker, it should seem that he is entitled to notice of the dishonour¹. And where a bill was drawn for the accommodation of a remote indorsee, and the names of all the prior parties were lent to him, it was holden in an action against one of those parties, an indorser, that the latter was entitled to notice of the dishonour of the bill, because upon paying it he would be entitled to sue such indorsee for re-payment². But if the payee of a note

Heath and Rooke, Justices, concurring, the rule was discharged. But in *Bayley on Bills*, 3d ed. 136. it is observed, that the court appear to have proceeded on a misapplication of the rule, which obtains as to accommodation acceptances; in those cases, the drawer being himself the real debtor, requires no right of action against the acceptor by paying the bill, and suffers no injury from want of notice of non-payment by the acceptor. But in this case the maker was the real debtor, and the payee the mere surety, having a clear right of action against the maker, upon paying the note, and therefore entitled to notice to enable him to exert that right.

In *Sisson v. Tomlinson*, London sittings, 17th December, 1805. *Selw. Ni. Pri.* 4th ed. 324. n. 31. and observed upon in *Brown v. Maffey*, 15 East. 222. Lord Ellenborough, C. J. ruled, on the authority of the preceding case, that where the indorser has not given any consideration for a bill, and knows at the time the drawer has not any effects in the hands of the drawee, he (the indorser) is not entitled to notice of non-payment as a *bonâ fide* holder for a valuable consideration would be. But see *Smith v. Beckett*, 13 East. 187. and next note, and *Brown v. Maffey*, B. R. Hil. 52 Geo. 3. 15 East. 216, in which last case it was holden, that an indorser is entitled to notice of dishonour although he has not received any value for his indorsement if he did not know that the bill was an accommodation bill in its inception.

¹ *Smith v. Beckett*, 13 East. 187.—*Bayl.* 136. In an action against the payee and indorser of a note drawn by Canning, dated 28th October, 1809, and payable on demand, it appeared that the defendant had lent his name to this and other notes merely to enable Canning to obtain credit with the plaintiffs, his bankers, he having then lately stopped payment, which was well known to all the parties. The plaintiffs made advances for six months on these notes, which advances they afterwards renewed without any communication with the defendant. On the 28th May, 1810, Canning became bankrupt, and payment was afterwards demanded and refused, but no notice of this dishonour was given to the defendant. Lord Ellenborough thought a notice necessary, and nonsuited the plaintiffs; and on a motion to set aside the nonsuit, *De Berdt v. Atkinson* was cited, but the court held clearly, that a notice was necessary, especially as the advances had been renewed without the plaintiff's knowledge.

² *Brown and others v. Maffey*, 15 East. 216. where a bill was drawn, accepted, and indorsed by several indorsers, for the accommodation of the last indorser, and the acceptor had no effects of the drawer in his hands, but that fact was not known to the defendant, one of the prior indorsers; it was held that the defendant was entitled to notice of the

lends his name to secure a composition from the drawer to a creditor, and takes effect of the drawers to answer it, he is not entitled to notice, because it would

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dis honour before the holder could maintain an action against him, in order to enable him (even if he had no remedy upon the bill) to call immediately upon the last indorser to whom he had lent the security of his indorsement, without value received, and who had received the money upon that security. Lord Ellenborough, after observing on the case of *Bickerdike v. Bollman*, as ante, 258, said, that decision dispensed with notice to the drawer, where he knew beforehand, that he had no effects in the hands of the drawee, and had no reason to expect that the bill would be paid when it became due. But that exception must be taken with some restrictions, which, since I have sat here, I have often had occasion to put upon it, as where a drawer though he might not have effects at the time of the drawing of the bill, in the drawee's hands, has a running account with him, and there is a fluctuating balance between them, and the drawer has reasonable ground to expect that he shall have effects in the drawee's hands when the bill became due: in such cases I have always held the drawer to be entitled to notice, because he draws the bill upon a reasonable presumption that it will be honored, (vide *Orr v. Maginnis*, 7 East. 359.—*Legge v. Thorpe*, 12 East. 171.) when indeed it is a mere accommodation bill, without assets in hand or any expected, no notice to the drawer is necessary according to the established authorities; but I should be sorry to extend the doctrine further. It is said, however, that I extended it to the case of an indorser, in *Sisson v. Tomlinson*. But without surrendering that case, the circumstances of which were different from the present, and may make it at least more questionable: here it is clear that the defendant had no knowledge of the acceptor's having no assets of the drawer in his hands, and that the drawer put his name to it merely as a co-surety for Woods, and therefore when it was dishonored, it became most material to the defendant that he should have had notice in order to enable him to proceed against Woods, for whom he was in substance, though not in form, a surety; for, if he had no notice, he might lose his benefit of reimbursement against Woods, who had received the money upon the security of the defendant. I therefore think that the nonsuit was proper for want of such notice. And Grose, J. concurring, Bayley, J. said, he was of the same opinion, and that the foundation of Mr. J. Buller's opinion in *Bickerdike v. Bollman*, was this, that the drawer having no assets in the drawee's hands, could not be injured by the non-payment of the bill, or the want of notice that it had been dishonoured: and that is true, as against the drawer, but as against an indorser who is not the party to provide for taking up the bill in the first instance, and who has a remedy over, the want of notice is an injury to him. In *Corney v. Mendez Da Costa*, 1 Esp. Rep. 302. it would have been a fraud in the indorser to call upon the maker of the note, because, before it became due the maker had deposited effects in his hands to answer the amount of his indorsement, and therefore he had no right to complain of the want of notice. But in this case, if the defendant had had notice of the non-payment at the time, he would have been enabled to call upon Woods immediately. The case of *Smith v. Beckett*, has established, that a party does not wave his right to notice by lending his indorsement as a security to enable the drawer to raise money on it. Rule discharged.

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be a fraud in him to call upon the maker who had thus deposited effects in his hands to answer the amount of his indorsement¹.

It has however been held, that it is no excuse for not having presented a note in time for payment, that the defendant indorsed it to guarantee a debt due from the maker, or that the defendant knew before it was due, that the maker could not pay it, and had desired a banker, at whose house it was made payable, to send it to him and he would pay it². And a person who has guaranteed the payment of money to be paid by a bill, is entitled (though no party to the bill) to insist on the neglect, to make a proper presentment or to give due notice of the dishonour of such bill³.

¹ *Corney v. Da Costa*, 1 Esp. Rep. 303. Da Costa and Co. compounded with their creditors, and to secure the composition, drew notes in favour of the defendant which he indorsed to the creditors. The defendant took effects of Da Costa and Co. at the time to the amount of the composition, and an action being brought against him upon one of these indorsements, he insisted that he had no notice of the non-payment of the note, until five weeks after it was due, but Buller, J. held, that he was not entitled to notice, and the plaintiff had a verdict. See observations on this case in *Brown v. Maffey*, 15 East. 222, 3.—Ante, 263, in notes.

² *Nicholson v. Gouthit*, 2 Hen. Bla. 609. Gouthit and Burton undertook to guarantee an instalment on the debt of Green's, and for that purpose, Green drew notes payable to Gouthit at Drury and Co.'s which Gouthit and Burton indorsed, after which they were delivered to the creditors. Before they became due, Gouthit enquired at Drury and Co.'s if they had any effects, and on their saying they had not, he desired them to send the notes to him and he would pay them. Many notes were accordingly presented and paid, but the note in question not being presented till three days after it was due, Gouthit refused to pay it. Burton had supplied him with money to take up all the notes, but as this was not presented when due, he had returned the money destined to pay it. An action was brought against Gouthit, and upon the trial, Eyre, C. J. thought, as he knew the note would not be paid at Drury and Co.'s, and had provided money for it, and as his indorsement was by way of guarantee, he was not injured by the delay, and that the request to send the notes to him was either a waiver of notice or notice by anticipation; but on a rule nisi to enter a nonsuit, and cause shewn, though he thought the justice was clearly with the plaintiff, he thought he could not recover; for though the indorsement was by way of guarantee, it was liable to all the legal consequences of an indorsement; and Gouthit's promise to pay, was only to pay such as should be duly presented at Drury's. Heath and Rooke, Justices, were of the same opinion, and the rule was made absolute.

³ *Phillips v. Astling*, 2 Taunt. 206. The declaration stated, that in consideration that the plaintiffs would sell and deliver to Daven-

But it has been held, that before the bill became due, the parties liable upon it were bankrupt or insolvent, will be *prima facie* evidence that a demand upon them would have been of no avail, and will dispense with the necessity of making such presentment or giving notice, because the same strictness of proof is not necessary to charge a guarantee, as is necessary to support an action upon the bill itself, and the circumstances created a presumption that the guarantee was not prejudiced by the want of notice¹.

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port and Finney, certain goods, to be paid for by a bill, to be drawn by D. and F. upon Houghton, at six months; the defendant undertook to guarantee the payment of such bill. It then averred delivery of the goods, acceptance of the bill, its presentment for payment, and dishonour. At the trial it appeared, that Houghton was at sea when the bill became due, which was on the 14th July, 1808, but that he had an agent residing in London, authorized to accept bills, and who had accepted this. That no presentment for payment was made to this agent when the bill became due; that on the 16th July, the plaintiff gave D. and F. notice that the bill remained unpaid, but no notice was given to the defendants. In February 1809, Davenport and Finney became insolvent, and Houghton was declared bankrupt in 1809, after which payment was demanded of the defendants. A verdict was found for the plaintiff, but upon a rule nisi for entering a nonsuit, after referring to *Warrington v. Furbor*, (8 East. 242. and *infra*, note 1,) said, that here the insolvency of the drawers and the bankruptcy of the acceptor did not happen until long after the bill became due, and that for any thing that appeared, if the money had been demanded either of the drawer or acceptor, the bill might have been paid, but that the necessary steps not having been taken to obtain payment from the parties who were liable upon the bill and solvent, the guarantee must be discharged, and therefore they made the rule absolute. See also *Bridges v. Berry*, 3 Taunt. 130.—*Bishop v. Rowe*, 3 M. & S. 362.—*Bayl.* 138, 9.

¹ *Warrington v. Furbor*, 8 East. 242. The defendant applied to one Martin, to purchase some goods to the amount of £1000, the price of which the plaintiffs undertook to guarantee at a credit of six months. The goods were furnished, and the defendant accepted a bill at six months for the amount. This bill became due 3d December, 1801, but on the 21st November preceding, the defendants became bankrupts, and the plaintiffs were obliged to pay Martin £1000 on their guarantee, and now brought this action to be reimbursed; one of the objections made by the defendant at the trial was, that the plaintiffs had not proved a presentment of the bill to the defendant for payment, without which it was insisted, that Martin could not have recovered against the plaintiffs on their guarantee, and therefore, that the latter had paid the money in their own wrong. Lord Ellenborough held the proof unnecessary, this not being an action on the bill, and it being obvious that notice would have been unavailable, the defendants having been then recently stripped of all their property, and the plaintiffs had a verdict; and on a rule nisi to set it aside, and cause shewn, the court held the verdict right, and

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It is no excuse for not giving notice to the drawer, that on an apprehension that the bill would be dishonoured, he lodged other money which he had of the drawee's in the hands of the indorser, on an undertaking by the indorser, that he would return it whenever it should appear that he was exonerated from the bill, for his having other money of the drawee's does not entitle him to apply it to the dishonoured bill unless he had notice of the dishonour¹. Nor is it any excuse for not giving notice to the drawer of a bill if he had effects in the hands of the drawee; that the drawee represented to the drawer, when the bill was drawn, that he should not be able to provide for it, and that the drawer thereby understood that he should have to provide for it².

Lawrence, J. said, the guarantees were not prevented from shewing that they ought not to have been called upon at all, for that the principal debtors could have paid the bill if demanded of them. Rule discharged. See Bayl. 138, 9.

¹ Clegg v. Cotton, 3 Bos. & Pul. 239. Indorsees against the drawer of a bill. The bill was drawn in America, on Cullen, of Liverpool, in favor of Miller and Robertson, and by them indorsed to Booth and Co. and it afterwards came to the plaintiff's hands. It was dated in 1794, and drawn at 90 days sight. In 1800 the defendant having other effects of Cullen's in his hands, deposited them with Miller and Robertson, and Booth and Co. on an undertaking from them, that they would return these effects whenever it should appear that they were exonerated from this bill. Cullen afterwards became bankrupt. The defendant was arrested, and then said he should apply to Cullen's assignees to bail him, for he had lodged property in America to answer the bill, and if he was discharged for want of notice, he should pay it over to them. Acceptance and payment were both refused, but no notice was ever given of it to the defendant. Chambre nonsuited the plaintiff, on the ground that the defendant was discharged for want of notice; and on rule nisi to set aside the nonsuit, and cause shewn, the court held, that the special circumstances did not excuse the want of notice; that there was no fraud in the defendant, which was the ground of the rule for dispensing with notice, and that, when Miller and Robertson, and Booth and Co. were exonerated, which they also were by want of notice, the money deposited with them belonged to Cullen's assignees. Rule discharged.

Note.—It did not appear that the defendant had got back the property which he deposited, but that circumstance was not relied on.

² Staples v. Okines, 1 Esp. Rep. 332. In an action against the drawer of a bill, the defence was want of notice. The plaintiff thereupon called the acceptor, who proved, that when the bill was drawn, he was indebted to the defendant in more than the amount of the bill, but that he then represented to the defendant that it would not be in his power to provide for the bill when it should become due, and that it was therefore then understood between them that the defendant should provide for it; and it was contended that this super-

If at any time between the drawing of the bill and its presentment and dishonour, the drawee had *some effects* of the drawer in his hands, though insufficient to pay the amount, or though the drawer has afterwards withdrawn such effects, he will nevertheless be entitled to notice of the dishonour, and the laches of the holder will discharge him from liability, for this case differs from that where there are no effects whatever of the drawer in the hands of the drawee at the time, because the drawer must then know that he is drawing upon accommodation, and without any reasonable expectation that the bill will be honoured; but if he have effects at the time, it would be dangerous and inconvenient merely on account of the shifting of a balance, to hold notice not to be necessary; it would be introducing a number of collateral issues upon every case upon a bill of exchange, to examine how the accounts stood between the drawer and the drawee, from the time the bill was drawn, down to the time when it was dishonoured¹. For

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sceded the necessity of giving the defendant notice. But Lord Kenyon held, that it did not, and nonsuited the plaintiff.

¹ *Orr v. Maginnis*, 7 East. 359.—3 Smith, 328. S. C. In an action by the payees against the drawer of a foreign bill, payable at 90 days after sight, the declaration averred presentment for acceptance and refusal, presentment for payment, and refusal, and protest for non-payment; it then averred, that at the time of making the bill and from thence until presentment for payment, the defendant had no effects in the hands of the drawees. At the trial it appeared, that at the time of drawing the bill, the defendant had effects in the hands of the drawees, but to what amount did not appear; but that when the bill was presented for acceptance, and thence until presentment for payment he had not any. The bill was only noted for non-acceptance, but was protested for non-payment, no notice of non-acceptance was given to the defendant. The plaintiffs had paid the amount to an indorsee. They were nonsuited for want of proving protest for, and notice of non-acceptance. On motion to set aside the nonsuit, *Bickerdike and Bollman* and other cases were cited to shew that no notice, and therefore no protest was necessary. But Lord Ellenborough said, that that case went on the ground that there were no effects in the hands of the drawee at the time when the bill was drawn, and the other cases followed on the same ground, but that no case had extended the exemption to cases where the drawee had effects of the drawer's in his hands at the time when the bill was drawn, though the balance might vary afterwards, and be turned into the opposite scale. Rule refused.

Hammond v. Dufrene, 3 Campb. 145. This was an action on a bill of exchange for £301. 17s. 10d. dated the 25th of April, 1811,

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the same reason, if the drawer of a bill of exchange, when it is presented for acceptance, has effects in the hands of the drawees, though he is indebted to them in a much larger amount, and they, without his privity, have appropriated the effects in their hands, to the satisfaction of their debt, he is entitled to notice of the dishonour¹. Nor is actual value in the hands

drawn by the defendant upon and accepted by Messrs. Dufrene and Penny, payable at three months after date. To excuse the proof of notice to the defendant of the dishonour of the bill, one of the acceptors was called, who stated, that when the bill was drawn and accepted, they had no effects of the drawer in their hands, but that before the bill became due, he paid a sum of £400, on their account. Parke, for the plaintiff, insisted, that this was an accommodation bill, and that the drawer, therefore, was not entitled to notice of its dishonour. Lord Ellenborough said, I think the drawer has a right to notice of the dishonour of a bill if *he has effects in the hands of the acceptor at any time before it becomes due*. In that case he may reasonably expect that the bill will be regularly paid, and he may be prejudiced by receiving no notice that it is dishonoured. I am aware that the inquiry has generally been as to the state of accounts between the drawer and the drawee when the bill was drawn or accepted; but I conceive the whole period must be looked to, from the drawing of the bill till it becomes due, and that notice is requisite if the drawer has effects in the hands of the drawee at any time during that interval: therefore, if the defendant in this case paid a sum of money for Messrs. Dufrene and Penny, before the 28th of July, you must prove that he had due notice it was not paid on that day by the acceptors. The case was afterwards brought before the court, but the direction of the judge, at Nisi Prius, upon this point, was not questioned.

Thackray v. Blackett, 3 Campb. 164. The drawer of two bills of exchange, before they became due, received notice that they were accidentally destroyed, and was called upon to give others in their stead, according to the statute of 9 & 10 W. 3, c. 17. When the bills were drawn he had no effects in the hands of the acceptors, but before either was due, they were indebted to him to an amount less than one of the bills, and became bankrupt. Held that he was nevertheless entitled to notice of the dishonour of both bills. Lord Ellenborough said, the excuse of want of effects in their hands I think is unavailing, as to both bills; I cannot make any distinction between the two. If there was an open account between the parties, and the acceptors were indebted in any sum to the drawer before the bills became due, I cannot say that he must necessarily have been aware before hand that either of them would be dishonoured. Judges of the greatest authority, have doubted of the propriety of the rule laid down in *Bickerdike v. Bollman*, and I certainly will not give it any extension. Plaintiff nonsuited.

¹ *Blackham v. Doren*, 2 Campb. 503. This was an action against the drawer of a bill for £250, payable after sight, of which acceptance, had been refused; and to excuse the want of notice of non-acceptance, it was proved, that when the bill was presented, though the drawer had effects in the hands of the drawee to the amount of £1500, yet that he owed them £10,000, or £11,000, and that they

of the drawee at the time of drawing, essentially necessary to entitle the drawer to notice of dishonour of the bill, for circumstances may exist, which would give a drawer good ground to consider he had a right to draw a bill upon his correspondent; as where he had consigned effects to him, to answer the bill, though they may not have come to him at the time when the bill was presented for acceptance, to which may be added the case of bills drawn in respect of other fair mercantile agreements¹. And therefore where the drawer had sold and shipped goods to the drawee, and drew the bill before they had arrived, and the drawee not having received the bill of lading, refused to accept the goods because they were damaged, and who refused to accept the bill, it was decided, that the drawer was discharged for want of notice². But if the vendor of

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had appropriated the effects to go in satisfaction of this debt; this appropriation, however, was without the defendant's privity: Lord Ellenborough said, "If a man draws upon a house, with whom he has no account, he knows that the bill will not be accepted; he can suffer no injury from want of notice of its dishonour, and therefore he is not entitled to such notice; but the case is quite otherwise where the drawer has a fluctuating balance in the hands of the drawee; there notice is peculiarly requisite. Without this, how can the drawer know that credit has been refused to him, and that his bill has been dishonoured. It is said here, that the effects in the hands of the drawees were all appropriated to discharge their own debt; but that appropriation should appear by writing, and the defendant should be a party to it. I wish that notice had never been dispensed with, and then we should not have been troubled with investigating accounts between drawer and drawee. I certainly will not relax the rule still farther, which I should do if I were to hold that notice was unnecessary in the present case. Plaintiff nonsuited.

¹ Per Lord Ellenborough, in *Legge v. Thorpe*, 12 East. 175.—Per Eyre, C. J. in *Walwyn v. St. Quintin*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 654.—Ex parte Wilson, 11 Ves. jun. 411.

² *Rucker and others v. Hiller*, 16 East. 43.—3 Campb. 217. 334. S. C. Where one draws a bill of exchange, with a bonâ fide reasonable expectation of having assets in the hands of the drawee, as by having shipped goods on his account, which were on their way to the drawee, but without the bill of lading or invoice, the drawer is entitled to notice of the dishonour, though in fact the goods had not come to the hands of the drawee at the time where the bill was presented for acceptance, or he had rejected them, and he returned it marked "no effects." Lord Ellenborough, C. J. said, when the drawer draws his bill on the bonâ fide expectation of assets in the hands of the drawee to answer it, it would be carrying the case of *Bickerdike v. Bollman* further than has ever been done, if he were

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goods sold upon credit, draws upon the purchaser a bill, which would be due long before the expiration of the stipulated credit, he is not entitled to notice of the dishonour, because he had no right to expect that the drawee would honour the bill^a. It should seem, that although the drawer or other party may not have advanced money or goods to the drawee, yet if he has deposited short bills or policies, or even title-deeds in his hands, or has accepted cross bills, and had reasonable ground to expect that the drawee

not at all events entitled to notice of the dishonour. And I know the opinion of my Lord Chancellor to be, that the doctrine of that case ought not to be pushed further. The case is very different where the party knows that he has no right to draw the bill. There are many occasions where a drawee may be justified in refusing, from motives of prudence, to accept a bill, on which notice ought nevertheless to be given to the drawer; and if we were to extend the exception further, it would come at last to a general dispensation, with notice of the dishonour, in all cases where the drawee had no assets in hand at the very time of presenting the bill; and thus get rid of the general rule requiring notice, than which nothing is more convenient in the commercial world. A bonâ fide reasonable expectation of assets in the hands of the drawee has been several times held to be sufficient to entitle the drawer to notice of the dishonour, though such expectation may ultimately have failed to be realized.

^a Claridge v. Dalton, 4 M. & S. 226. The drawer of a bill of exchange, who has no effects in the hands of the drawee, except that he has supplied him with goods upon credit, which credit does not expire till long after the bill would become due, is not discharged by want of notice of the dishonour. Time given by indorsee to the payee does not discharge the drawer. Lord Ellenborough, C. J. said, I accede to the proposition, that where there are any funds in the hands of the drawee, so that the drawer has a right to expect, or even where there are not any funds, if the bill be drawn under such circumstances, as may induce the drawer to entertain a reasonable expectation that the bill will be accepted and paid, the person so drawing it is entitled to notice; but this bill was drawn in anticipation of the credit, and without any assurance of accommodation; and Bayley, J. said, the case of Bickerdike v. Bollman, has established, and I am disposed to think rightly, that a party who cannot be prejudiced by want of notice, shall not be entitled to require it; but this rule extends only to cases where the party has no effects, or is not likely to have effects, or has no expectation that he will have any. In all other cases, the drawer is entitled to notice, and this is required in order that he may withdraw forthwith out of the hands of the drawee such effects as he may happen to have, or may stop those which he is in a course of putting into his hands. But at the period when the bill was refused payment, the defendant was not in a condition to have taken any steps against Pickford, the drawee, so as to derive any benefit from a notice; therefore he was not entitled to notice.

would accept or pay in respect thereof, he is entitled to notice of the dishonour¹.

The death², bankruptcy, or known insolvency³ of

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¹ In *Walwyn v. St. Quintin*, 2 Esp. Rep. 515. Eyre, C. J. left it to the jury to say, whether title-deeds were effects or not, and they found in the affirmative. See 1 Bos. & Pul. 652. S. C.—Ante, 261.

Ex parte Heath, 2 Ves. & Bea. 240.—2 Rose, 141. S. C. In this case a distinction was taken as to the necessity of notice to the drawer of a dishonoured bill, depending on the fact whether the acceptor has effects, or whether it arose out of a single transaction, or out of various dealings. In the latter case it was held, that notice is equally necessary without effects. And it seems, that securities as title-deeds, and short bills, are effects for this purpose. The Lord Chancellor said, I have often lamented the consequences of distinction, introduced in modern times, as to the necessity of giving notice of the non-payment or non-acceptance of a bill of exchange, whether the acceptor had or had not effects, and I have the satisfaction of finding, that my opinion has been adopted by the courts of law. According to the old rule, a bill of exchange, purporting upon the face of it to be for value received, the implication of law from the acceptance was, that the acceptor had effects. Then they came to this general doctrine, that it is not necessary for the holder to give notice, if he can shew that the acceptor had no effects. The first objection is, who is to decide whether there are effects or not; in the simple case, where there is nothing but the particular bill, and no other dealing between them, there is no difficulty; but if there are complicated engagements, and various accommodation transactions, no one can say whether there are effects or not, and there cannot be a stronger instance than that in the case of *Walwyn v. St. Quintin*, (2 Esp. Rep. 515. ante, 261.) referred to; Lord Chief Justice Eyre, a very good lawyer, left to the jury to decide, without any solution of the question, whether title-deeds are effects; but a rule that securities cannot be effects in any case, would be quite destructive of all commercial dealing. Are not short bills, for instance, effects? Is it of no importance to the holder to have notice that he may withdraw them from the possession of the acceptor? The courts were obliged necessarily to decide, that if bills were accepted for the accommodation of the drawer, and there was nothing but that paper between them, notice was not necessary, the drawer being, as between him and the acceptor, first liable; but if bills were drawn for the accommodation of the acceptor, the transaction being for his benefit, there must be notice without effects, and if in result of various dealings, the surplus of accommodation is on the side of the acceptor, he is, with regard to the drawer, exactly in the same situation of an acceptor having effects, and the failure to give notice may be equally detrimental, I will in this instance give an enquiry. It is upon the petitioner to prove, that in all this complication, there is nothing which the law calls effects, he may therefore have liberty to call a meeting, and must pay the costs of this application.

² Poth. pl. 146.

³ *Russell v. Langstaffe*, Dougl. 497. 515.—*Esdale v. Sowerby*, 11 East. 114.—Ex parte Wilson, 11 Ves. jun. 412.—*Whitfield v. Savage*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 279. *Thackray v. Blackett*, 3 Campb. 165.—*Bayl.* 115. acc. Ex parte Smith, 3 Bro. C. C. 1. contra.

In *Russell v. Langstaffe*, Dougl. 497. 515. Lee, said, arguendo, that it had frequently been ruled by Lord Mansfield at Guildhall, that it is not an excuse for not making a demand on a note or bill,

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the drawee, or his being in prison¹, constitute no excuses, either at law or in equity, for the neglect to give due notice of non-acceptance or non-payment; because many means may remain of obtaining payment by the assistance of friends or otherwise, of which it is reasonable that the drawer and indorsers should have the opportunity of availing themselves, and it is not competent to the holders to shew that the delay in giving notice has not in fact been prejudicial²; nor will the circumstance of the drawee's having in-

or for not giving notice of non-payment, that the drawer or acceptor has become a bankrupt, as many means may remain of obtaining payment by the assistance of friends or otherwise; and Lord Mansfield, who was in court, did not deny the assertion. This dictum was also referred to, arguendo, in *Bickerdike v. Bollman*, 1 T. R. 408.

Esdaile v. Sowerby, 11 East. 114. In an action by the indorsees of a bill of exchange, drawn by Cheetham upon Hill, in favour of the defendants, and by them indorsed to the plaintiffs, a verdict was found for the plaintiff, subject to a case for the opinion of the court. The bill, which was payable in London, became due on Saturday, 20th February, and then dishonoured. By a mistake, the notice of non-payment was not given to the defendants till the 27th, whereas it ought to have been given on the 24th, and payment was refused, on the ground of these laches; before the bill became due the drawer had stopped payment and become bankrupt, and the acceptor was insolvent. The drawer had himself apprized the defendant of his situation at the time of his stopping payment, and that this bill would not be paid, and they knew that the acceptor had no funds but such as the drawer furnished him with, and on the 25th February, they admitted to the plaintiff's agent, that they knew of the insolvency of the drawer and acceptor. It was contended that notice of the dishonour was unnecessary. But the court was clear that the insolvency of the drawer and acceptor, and the knowledge of it, did not dispense with the necessity of giving notice of the dishonour of the bill to the defendants. And Lord Ellenborough said, "It is too late now to contend, that the insolvency of the drawer or acceptor dispenses with the necessity of a demand of payment or of notice of the dishonour."—*Boulton v. Stubbins*, 18 Ves. jun. 21. The Lord Chancellor, after deciding that indulgence to the principal, by taking a mortgage and giving time, discharges the surety, though such conduct may be for the benefit of the surety, said "It is in most cases for the advantage of the surety, but the law takes so little notice of that circumstance, that if the acceptor of a bill becomes bankrupt, the holder must give notice to the drawer, as another person has no right to judge what are his remedies, and the original implied contract being, that as far as the nature of the original security will admit, the surety, paying the debt, shall stand in the place of the creditor."

¹ Per Alvanley, C. J. in *Haynes v. Birks*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 601.

² *Esdaile v. Sowerby*, 11 East. 147.—*Russell v. Langstaffe*, Dougk. 515.—*Bickerdike v. Bollman*, 1 T. R. 408.—*De Berdt v. Atkinson*, 2 Hen. Bla. 336.—*Nicholson v. Gouthit*, id. 612.; and admitted by the court in *Warrington v. Furber*, 8 East. 245, 6. 7.

formed the drawer, before the bill was presented for acceptance or became due; that he could not honour it, be a sufficient excuse for not giving notice¹; and therefore where A. to accommodate B. lent him a bill drawn by himself upon and accepted by C. who had effects of his in his hands, and B. indorsed it to D. who indorsed it over; and the day before the bill became due, B. paid the amount to A. who, on hearing that C. had failed, gave B. a check for the amount of the bill, and sent him with it to D. to enable him to pay the bill when due: and four days after that time A. learning that payment had not been demanded, desired D. not to pay the bill, as no notice of non-payment had been given by the holder, and offered to indemnify him, notwithstanding which D. afterwards paid the bill; it was holden first, that D. paid the bill in his own wrong, and secondly, that A. was entitled to recover back the money paid into the hands of D. by B. in an action for money had and received². Again, in *Esdaile v. Sowerby*³ it was held, that, though the indorsers of a bill of exchange had full knowledge of the bankruptcy of the drawer, and of the insolvency of the acceptor before the bill became due, and that it was impossible it could be paid, yet that they were discharged by the holders not giving them due notice, on account of a mistake by misdirecting a letter containing such notice. But where the drawer of a bill, a few days before it became due, stated to the holder, that he had no regular residence, and that he would call and see if the bill had been paid

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¹ *Nicholson v. Gouthit*, 2 Hen. Bla. 612.—*Staples v. Okines*, 1 Esp. Rep. 332.—In *Esdaile v. Sowerby*, 11 East. 117. Lord Ellenborough observed, that as to the knowledge of the dishonour being equivalent to due notice of it given to him by the holder, the case of *Nicholson v. Gouthit*, is so decisive an authority against that doctrine that we cannot enter even into the discussion of it.

² *Whitfield v. Savage*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 277.—*Clegg v. Cotton*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 239.; but see *Brett v. Levett*, 13 East. 213, 4. as to an acknowledgment by a drawer before the bill became due that he knew it would not be paid, *infra*.

³ 11 East, 114. *ante*, 272; but see *Brett v. Levett*, 13 East. 213, 4.

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by the acceptor, it was held that he was not entitled to notice of its dishonour, he having thus dispensed with it¹; and if the drawer, on being applied to by the holder before a bill is due, to know if it will be paid, answer, that it will not, he is not entitled to notice of non-payment²; and where one of several drawers of a bill was also the acceptor, it was held, in an action against the drawers, that proof of these circumstances dispensed with the necessity for proving that notice of non-payment was in fact given, because notice to one of several joint drawers of a bill is sufficient, and the acceptor being himself a drawer, he had notice of his own default³.

In general, the drawer will, as already observed, be at liberty to rebut the presumption that he could not have been damnified, raised by the proof of his having no effects in the hands of the drawee, by proving that he has really sustained damage⁴; and a surety for the acceptor, who has been obliged to pay the amount of the bill in consequence of the acceptor's bankruptcy, need not in an action against him for money paid, prove the due presentment of the bill, &c.⁵.

A neglect to give *immediate* notice may however be excused by some other circumstances besides the want of effects. Thus, the *absconding* or absence of the drawer or indorser may excuse the neglect to advise him⁶; and the sudden illness or death of the holder or his agent, or other accident⁷, may constitute

¹ Phipson v. Kneller, 4 Campb. 285.—1 Stark. 116. S. C.

² Brett v. Levett, 13 East. 214.

³ Porthouse v. Parker and others, 1 Campb. 82. In which Lord Ellenborough held, that the plaintiff was not bound to prove that the defendant had received express notice of the dishonour of the bill which must necessarily have been known to one of them, and the knowledge of one was the knowledge of all. But if there was any fraud in the transaction, a different rule would prevail, Per Lord Ellenborough, in Bignold v. Waterhouse, 1 M. & S. 259.

⁴ Ante, 268, 9, but see Rogers v. Stevens, 2 T. R. 713.

⁵ Warrington v. Furber, 8 East. 242.

⁶ Walwyn v. St. Quintin, 2 Esp. Rep. 516.—1 Bos. & Pul. 652. S. C. Bul. Ni. Pri. 273, 4. and see Crosse v. Smith, 1 M. & S. 545.—Bowes v. Howe, 5 Taunt. 30.

⁷ There is no reported case deciding whether accident will excuse a delay in giving notice of non acceptance or non-payment. In Hil-

an excuse for the want of a regular notice to any of the parties, provided it be given as soon as possible after the impediment is removed¹. And the holder of a bill of exchange is excused for not giving regular notice of its being dishonoured to an indorser, of whose place of residence he is *ignorant*, if he use

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ton v. Shepherd, 6 East. 15, in notes, Garrow and Russell contended, that whether due notice has been given in reasonable time, must, from the necessity of the thing, be a question of fact for the consideration of the jury. That it depended upon a thousand combinations of circumstances which could not be reduced to rule; if the party were taken ill, if he lost his senses, if he were under duress, &c. how could laches be imputed to him, suppose he were prevented from giving notice within the time named by a physical impossibility. Such a rule of law must depend upon the distance, upon the course of the post, upon the state of the roads, upon accidents, all which it is absurd to imagine. Lord Kenyon, C. J. I cannot conceive how this can be a matter of law. I can understand that the law should require that due diligence shall be used, but that it should be laid down that the notice must be given that day or the next, or at any precise time, under whatever circumstances, is, I own, beyond my comprehension. I should rather have conceived that whether due diligence had or had not been used was a question for the jury to consider, under all the circumstances of *accident, necessity, and the like*. This, however, is a question very fit to be considered, and when it goes down to trial again I shall advise the jury to find a special verdict. I find invincible objections in my own mind to consider that the rule of law requiring due diligence, is tied down to the next day. In *Darbishire v. Parker*, 6 East. 3. it was held, that reasonable time is a matter of law for the court.

¹ *Turner v. Leach*, sittings at Guildhall, post, Hilary Term, 1818, cor. Lord Ellenborough. Assumpsit by the eleventh indorser of a bill of exchange, against the eighth indorser, for default of payment. It appeared, that in due time on the 4th September, 1817, the returned bill, with notice of the dishonour, was left at the house of Richard Bennett, the tenth indorser, inclosed in a letter addressed to him. That in consequence of the dangerous illness of his wife at a distant place, he had on the 1st September left his house in care of a lad, who had no authority to open letters, intending to return on the 3d September, but that in consequence of the increasing dangerous illness of his wife, he did not return till after the 8th September, on which day his brother opened the letter, and immediately gave notice of the dishonour of the bill to the plaintiff who paid it, and then called upon the defendant, who insisted that he was discharged for want of earlier notice. It was urged for the plaintiff, that the dangerous illness of Richard Bennett's wife, excused his absence from home, and the delay in giving notice of the dishonour, and that as the dishonour of a bill is contrary to the contract and expectation of the parties, there is no reason for requiring an indorser to be in the way, or to appoint an agent in his absence to provide for such an event. But Lord Ellenborough ruled that these circumstances constituted no excuse for the delay in giving notice. A case was reserved upon another point.

¹ Poth. pl. 144.; but a mistake in directing a letter is no excuse, *Esdaile v. Sowerby*, 11 East. 114. ante, 273.

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reasonable diligence to discover where the indorser may be found¹. And Lord Ellenborough observed, "When the holder of a bill of exchange does not know where the indorser is to be found, it would be very hard if he lost his remedy by not communicating immediate notice of the dishonour of the bill; and I think the law lays down no such rigid rule. The holder must not allow himself to remain in a state of passive and contented ignorance; but if he uses reasonable diligence to discover the residence of the indorser, I conceive that notice given as soon as this is discovered is due notice of the dishonour of the bill, within the usage and custom of merchants." And it has been considered to be sufficient, when a promissory note has been dishonoured, to make inquiries at the drawer's for the residence of the payee². But in a subsequent case it was held, that, to excuse the not giving of regular notice of the dishonour of a bill it is not enough to shew that the holder, being ignorant of his residence, made enquiries upon the subject at the place where the bill was payable³. However, sending verbal notice to a merchant's counting-house is sufficient, and if no person be there in the ordinary

¹ Bateman v. Joseph, 2 Campb. 461.—12 East. 433. S. C. - What is due diligence, see Harrison v. Fitzhenry, 3 Esp. 240. Quære, whether reasonable diligence is in this case a question of fact or law, 1 Wightw. 76.—12 East. 433.—2 Campb. 461.—3 Campb. 262.—6 East. 3. ante, 214, n. 1. as to what is reasonable diligence, 4 M. & S. 49.

² Sturges v. Derrick, Wightw. 76.

³ Beveridge v. Burgis, 3 Campb. 262. This was an action by the indorsee against the indorser of a bill of exchange. The plaintiff had given the defendant no notice of its dishonour till several months after it became due; the excuse alledged for this omission was, that the plaintiff was ignorant of the defendant's address, which did not appear upon the bill, but the only evidence adduced to shew that he had used any diligence to discover this, was, that he had made inquiries upon the subject at a house in the Old Bailey, where the bill was made payable by the acceptor. Lord Ellenborough. Ignorance of the indorser's residence may excuse the want of due notice, but the party must shew that he has used reasonable diligence to find it out. Has he done so here? how should it be expected that the requisite information should be obtained where the bill was payable? Inquiries might have been made of the other persons whose names appeared upon the bill, and application might have been made to persons of the same name with the defendant, whose addresses are set down in the directory. Plaintiff nonsuited.

hours of business, it is not necessary to leave or send a written one, nor is it necessary to make enquiries after the party, so as to give him notice elsewhere¹.

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The holder of a bill of exchange is also excused for not giving notice in the usual time, by the day on which he should regularly have given notice, being a public festival, on which he is strictly forbidden by his religion to attend to any secular affairs². But the loss or destruction of an accepted bill affords no excuse for the delay in giving notice of non-payment³. Nor would the bankruptcy of a drawer or indorser of a bill, or indorser of a note, excuse the neglect to give notice of the default of the drawee, to the bankrupt or his assignee⁴.

¹ Goldsmith and others v. Bland and others, cor. Lord Eldon, 1 Mar. 1800.—Bayl. 127. note 1. The plaintiffs sued the defendants as indorsers of two foreign bills, and to prove notice, the plaintiffs shewed that they sent a clerk to the defendant's counting-house near the Exchange, between four and five o'clock in the afternoon, nobody was in the counting-house; the clerk saw a servant girl at the house, who said that nobody was in the way, and he returned, having left no message with her. Lord Eldon told the jury, that if they thought the defendants ought to have had somebody in the counting-house at the time, he was of opinion that the plaintiffs had done all that was necessary by sending their clerk; that the notice was in law sufficient, if the time was regular, whether the defendants were solvent at the time or not. The jury thought the defendants ought to have had somebody in the counting-house at the time, and that the plaintiffs had done all that was necessary. Verdict for the plaintiffs for £1633. Post 285.

Crosse and others v. Smith and others, 1 M. & S. 545. Notice to the drawers of non-payment of a bill of exchange by sending to their counting-house during hours of business on two successive days, knocking there and making noise sufficient to be heard by persons within, and waiting there several minutes; the inner door of the counting-house being locked is sufficient without leaving a notice in writing, or sending by the post, though some of the drawers lived at a small distance from the place. See also Bowes v. Howe, 5 Taunt. 30. Post, 285.

² Lindo v. Unsworth, 2 Campb. 602. Notice of the dishonour of a bill was sent to the plaintiff in London, the 8th of October, but he being a Jew, and the 8th of October being the day of the greatest Jewish festival throughout the year, on which all Jews are prohibited from attending to any secular affairs, gave no notice by the post of that day to the defendant who lived at Lancaster, but sent it to him by the post of the 9th. Lord Ellenborough held, that the plaintiff was excused from giving notice on the 8th on the ground of his religion, and the notice sent off on the 9th was sufficient. The plaintiff had a verdict.

³ Poth. pl. 125.—Thackray v. Blackett, 3 Campb. 164.—Manning Ind. 69. ante, 203.

⁴ Cooke's Bank. L. 168.—Cullen's Bank. L. 100.—Montague's Bank. L. 143. n. x. acc. ex parte Smith, Bro. C. C. 1, contra.

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It has been already observed¹, that if the drawee offer a conditional or partial acceptance, the holder must, provided he means to resort to the drawer and indorsers, give notice of such acceptance; it is said, however², that where the drawee refuses to accept absolutely, and makes a conditional acceptance, the terms of which are complied with, no notice of the manner in which the bill has been accepted is necessary; and that where the drawee undertakes by his acceptance to pay only part of the bill, the parties to the bill are bound to the extent of his acceptance, and an omission to give notice of such partial acceptance, does not discharge them from the obligation to that amount.

2dly. The protest and form of notice of non-acceptance.

The conduct which the holder must adopt on the dishonour of a *foreign* bill, differs materially from that which he must pursue in the case of an *inland* bill. Whenever notice of non-acceptance of a *foreign* bill is necessary, a *protest*³ must also be made, which though mere matter of form, is by the custom of merchants indispensibly necessary, and cannot be supplied by witnesses or oath of the party or in any other way⁴, and as it is said, is part of the constitution of

¹ Ante, 238.

² Bayl. 115, 6.

³ See the form post, of a protest for non-payment, which, with the alteration of the words in italics, will suffice in the case of a foreign bill.

⁴ Rogers v. Stevens, 2 T. R. 713.—Gale v. Walsh, 5 T. R. 239.—Orr v. Maginnis, 7 East. 459. 360.—Brough v. Parkins, Lord Raym. 993.—6 Mod. 80.—1 Salk. 131. S. C.—Bul. Ni. Pri. 271.—Bayl. 117, 8.

Rogers v. Stephens, 2 T. R. 713. In an action against the drawer of a foreign bill of exchange, it appeared that the bill had been noted for non-acceptance, but there was no protest, and this was pressed as a ground for nonsuit. Lord Kenyon admitted the objection, but upon the other circumstances thought this a case in which a protest was not necessary.

Gale v. Walsh, 5 T. R. 239. In an action against the drawer of a foreign bill it was reserved as a point, whether it was necessary to prove a protest, and the court thought it so clear, upon motion to enter a nonsuit, that they suggested to the plaintiff's counsel the expediency of making the rule absolute in the first instance, and upon their acquiescence, it was accordingly done; they afterwards, however, wished to have it opened, upon an idea that the drawer had no effects in the hands of the drawee; but it appearing upon the report

a foreign bill of exchange; and the mere production of this protest attested by a notary public, without proof of the signature or affixing of the seal (though not so if payable here¹) will in the case of a bill payable and protested out of this country, be evidence of the dishonour of the bill², and to it all foreign courts give credit³; and it cannot be supplied by mere proof of noting for non-acceptance, and a subsequent protest for non-payment. But proof that the drawer had no effects in the hands of the drawee at the time of drawing the bill, or at any time afterwards, will in this country excuse the want of a protest, and prevent the drawer being discharged⁴. So a subsequent promise by the drawer to pay the bill may preclude him from availing himself of the want of a protest⁵. But it is not advisable to omit protesting a foreign bill, because in foreign courts they would probably not be governed by the exception introduced by our courts⁶.

2dly. Of the protest and mode of giving notice of non-acceptance.

If therefore the drawee refuse to accept, the holder or some other person, if he be ill or absent⁷, should cause it to be protested; for which purpose he should carry the bill to a *notary*⁸, who is to present it again to the drawee, and demand acceptance; which should, in case the bill was drawn on or accepted payable at a banker's, be, during the usual hours of business, and in London not later than five o'clock⁹; and if the drawee again refuse to accept, the notary is thereupon to make a minute on the bill itself, consisting of his ini-

that the idea was not well founded, the rule stood. And in *Brough v. Parkins*, Lord Raym. 993. 6 Mod. 80. Salk. 131. Holt, C. J. says, a protest on a foreign bill is a part of the custom.

¹ *Chesmer v. Noyes*, 4 Campb. 129.

² Anonymous, 12 Mod. 345.—*Dupays v. Shepherd*, Holt, 297.—*Chemers v. Noyes*, 4 Campb. 129.—2 Roll. Rep. 346.—10 Mod. 66. Peake Law of Evid. 4th edit. 80. 74, in notes.

³ Molloy, 281.—*Dacosta and Cole*, Skin. 272. pl. 1.

⁴ *Orr v. Maginnis*, 7 East. 359.—*Legge v. Horp*, 2 Campb. 310. 12 East, 171. As to this point, see ante, 258 to 260.

⁵ *Gibbon v. Coggon*, 2 Campb. 188.

⁶ Per Lord Ellenborough, *Legge v. Thorp*, 12 East. 177, 8.

⁷ Molloy, b. 2. c. 10. s. 17.

⁸ See the nature of his office explained in Burn's Ecc. L. tit. Notary Public; and see Regulations in 41 Geo. 3. c. 79.

⁹ *Parker v. Gordon*, 7 East. 385. ante, 211, 2.

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tials, the month, the day and year, and the reason, if assigned, for non-acceptance, together with his charge. The next step which the notary is to adopt is to draw up the protest¹, which is a formal declaration on the bill itself, if it can be obtained, or otherwise on a copy², that it has been presented for acceptance, which was refused, and why, and that the holder intends to recover all damages, expences, &c. which he, or his principal, or any other party to the bill, may sustain on account of non-acceptance³. The minute above mentioned is usually termed *noting* the bill, but this, it has been said, is unknown in the law, as distinguished from the protest, and is merely a preliminary step to the protest, and though it has grown into practice within these few years, it will not in any case supply the want of a protest⁴; the demand is the material thing, and must, it is said, in the case of a foreign bill, be made by a notary public himself, to whom credit is given because he is a public officer, and it cannot be made by his clerk⁵. This doctrine was sanctioned in a late case, in which the court observed, that the rule requiring the attestation of a notary public ought to be strictly observed⁶. In case, however, there be not any public notary at the place where the bill is dishonoured, it may be protested by any substantial person of that place in the presence of two or more witnesses⁷, and it is said it should be made between sun-rise and sun-set. It should in general be made in the place where acceptance is refused; but when a bill is drawn abroad, directed to the drawee at Southampton, or any other place, requesting him to

¹ Per Holt, C. J. in *Buller v. Crips*, 6 Mod. 29.—Selw. N. P. 307. and note 33.

² *Dehers v. Harriot*, 1 Show. 164.

³ Poth. pl. 84.—Mall. 264.—Mar. 16.

⁴ Per Buller, J. in *Leftley v. Mills*, 4 T. R. 175.—*Rogers v. Stephens*, 2 T. R. 713.—*Gale v. Walsh*, 5 T. R. 239.—Bull. N. P. 271. Bayl. 72. n. a. and see *Orr v. Maginnis*, 7 East. 359.

⁵ Per Buller, J. in *Leftley v. Mills*, 4 T. R. 175. sed quære.

⁶ *Ex parte Worsley*, 2 Hen. Bla. 275.

⁷ Bayl. 118.

pay the bill in London, the protest for non-acceptance may be made either at Southampton or in London¹. The form of the protest should always be conformable to the custom of the country where it is made². If a conditional or partial acceptance be offered, the protest should not be general, as otherwise it will release the acceptor from the effect of such acceptance³. A copy of the bill should, it is said, be prefixed to all protests, with the indorsements transcribed verbatim, and with an account of the reason given by the party why he does not honour the bill⁴. Protests made in this country, must, in order to their being received in evidence, be written on paper stamped with a proportionate stamp⁵.

2dly. Of the protest and mode of giving notice of non-acceptance.

It has been said, that the making the protest alone is not sufficient, and that a copy of it, or some other memorial, must, within a reasonable time, be sent with a letter of advice to the persons on whom the holder means to call for payment⁶; but it has been recently decided, that it is not necessary that a copy of the protest should accompany the notice of non-acceptance⁷,

¹ Mar. 107.

² Poth. pl. 155.

³ Bayl. 89.—*Bentinck v. Dorrien*, 6 East. 199. ante, 238, and see *Sproat v. Matthews*, 1 T. R. 182.

⁴ Poth. pl. 135.

⁵ See 55 Geo. 3. c. 184. which repeals 44 Geo. 3. c. 98. 48 Geo. 3. c. 149.

⁶ Bayl. 118.—Poth. pl. 148. and see *Orr v. Maginnis*, 7 East. 359.

⁷ Bayl. 122.—*Robins v. Gibson*, 3 Campb. 334.—*Cromwell v. Hynson*, 2 Esp. Rep. 511, 2.—*Pothier Traite du Contrat. de Change*, part 1. c. 5. s. 150.—*Chaters v. Bell*, 4 Esp. Rep. 48.—*Manning's Index*, 66.—*Acc. Goostrey v. Mead*, Bull. N.P. 271.—*Gilb. Ev.* 79.—*Lovell on Bills*, 99.—*Sclw. N. P.* 307. *semb. contra.*

Robins v. Gibson, 3 Campb. 334. In an action against the drawer of a foreign bill of exchange the plaintiff proved, that a protest was regularly drawn up, and also that the drawer had arrived in England before the bill became due, and that a letter was sent to his house, stating, that the bill was dishonoured; but not communicating the protest or a copy of it, the defendant contended, that the protest should have accompanied the notice. Lord Ellenborough was of opinion, that under the circumstances of the case, enough had been done, and the plaintiff had a verdict; and upon motion for a new trial, the court being of opinion, it was sufficient that the bill was protested, and that the defendant had notice of the fact of its dishonour, although the protest was not communicated to him, and refused the rule.

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NOR is it necessary to send the protested bill¹, but a notice of the dishonour of the bill should in all cases be immediately given². It has been even held, that the protest for non-acceptance or non-payment of an inland bill may be drawn up at any time before the trial, provided the bill be noted in due time³.

At common law, no *inland bill* could be protested for non-acceptance; but by the statute 3 & 4 Anne, c. 9. s. 4⁴, which will be observed upon more fully hereafter, a protest was given in case of refusal to accept in writing any inland bill amounting to the sum of five pounds, expressed to be given for value received, and payable at days, weeks, or months after date, in the same manner as in the case of foreign bills of exchange. It has been considered that this protest must be made in order to entitle the holder to demand of the drawer or indorsers, costs, damages, and interest⁵; but in practice the plaintiff recovers interest against a drawer or indorser of an inland bill on proof of due notice without proving a protest. If, however, the bill be of the above description, and

¹ Mar. 68. 86. 7. 120.—Lovelass, 100.

² Id. *ibid.* and *supra*, note 8.—Hart v. King, 12 Mod. 309.—Anonymous, 1 Vent. 45.—Orr v. Maginnis, 7 East, 359.

³ Chaters v. Bell, 4 Esp. Rep. 48.—Bayl. 122. n. 2.—Selw. Ni. Pri. 307. S. C.—Goostrey v. Mead, Bul. Ni. Pri. 272. observed on in Orr v. Maginnis, 7 East. 361.—Rogers v. Stephens, 2 T. R. 714.—Bayl. 122. Manning's Ind. 66.

Chaters v. Bell, 4 Esp. Rep. 48. In an action by an indorsee against the indorser of a foreign bill, it appeared that the bill became due on the 24th April, when payment was demanded, and refused, and the bill was noted for non-payment. Regular notice of the dishonour given to the defendant, but he refused payment because there was no protest. On the 14th May the protest was formally drawn up, and this action was afterwards brought. Lord Kenyon said, "he was of opinion, that if the bill was regularly noted at the time, the protest might be made at a future period." A verdict was found for the plaintiff, but the point was reserved; and on the case coming on to be tried on a venire de novo, before Lord Ellenborough, his lordship expressed his concurrence with the opinion of Lord Kenyon.

⁴ See the constructions on this statute, Kyd. 149.—Bayl. 118. 2 Stra. 910. n. 1.

⁵ Harris v. Benson, 2 Stra. 910.—Brough v. Parkins, 2 Lord Raym. 993.—1 Salk. 131.—6 Mod. 80. S. C.—Boulager v. Talleyrand, 2 Esp. Rep. 550.—Powell v. Monnier, 1 Atk. 613.—Bridgman's Ind. 2 vol. 599. n. 123.—Bayl. 158, 9.—Manning's Ind. 66.

under the amount of twenty pounds, it may be doubtful whether the holder would not be entitled to the above accumulative remedy, though no protest were made¹. This protest is directed to be made by such persons as are appointed by 9 & 10 William 3. c. 17, to protest inland bills for non-payment², namely, by a notary public, and, in default of him, by any other substantial person of the city, town, or place, in the presence of two or more credible witnesses. Within fourteen days of the making of this protest, the same must be sent, or other notice thereof must be given to, or left in writing at the usual place of abode of the party from whom the bill was received³. The *protest* for non-acceptance in the case of an *inland* bill is by no means necessary, and at most it is only essential to entitle the holder to the accumulative remedy for interest and expences, and the want of it does not affect the holder's right to the principal sum, as it would in the case of a foreign bill⁴; and it is in practice seldom made; an inland bill is in general only *noted* for non-acceptance, which noting, as already observed, is of no avail⁵; and if not paid when due, it is then noted, and sometimes, though not very often, protested for non-payment⁶, and a protest for non-acceptance made in the country must be proved by the notary who made it, and it will not as in case of a protest made abroad prove itself⁷.

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¹ Stat. 9 & 10 Will. 3. c. 17. s. 6.—Bayl. 158, 9.—Kyd. 149.

² Stat. 3 & 4 Anne, c. 9. s. 6.

³ Id. section 5.

⁴ *Boroughs v. Perkins*, Holt, 121.—*Harris v. Benson*, 2 Stra. 910. *Boulager v. Talleyrand*, 2 Esp. Rep. 550.—*Burgh v. Perkins*, 6 Mod. 80.—1 Salk. 131.—3 Salk. 69.—Lord Raym. 992. S. C.

⁵ Ante, 280.

⁶ 3 & 4 Anne, c. 9. s. 5.—Kyd. 150.

⁷ *Chesmer v. Noyes*, 4 Campb. 129, ante, 279. In an action against the acceptor of a foreign bill of exchange it became material to prove the presentment of the bill for payment, and for this purpose the plaintiff's counsel produced a notarial protest under seal. Lord Ellenborough said, the protest may be sufficient to prove a presentment which took place in a foreign country: but I am quite clear that the presentment of a foreign bill in England must be proved in the same manner as if it were an inland bill or promissory note.

Notice of non-acceptance, and how given.

Notice, however, must be given of the non-acceptance, otherwise, for the reasons before stated¹, the holder in general discharges the drawer and indorsers from all liability. Any act of the holder, signifying the refusal of the drawee, will be a sufficient notice; though we have seen that in the case of a foreign bill there must also be a protest². It has indeed been said in the course of argument, that it is not enough to state in the notice, that the drawee refuses to honour, but that it must go farther, and express that the holder does not intend to give credit to the drawee³; but it should seem that as the only reason why notice is required, is that the drawer or indorsers may have the earliest opportunity of resorting to the parties liable to them, it is not necessary that they should be informed of their liability, because that is a legal consequence of the default of acceptance of which they must necessarily be apprized by mere notice of non-acceptance⁴.

With respect to the *mode of giving the notice* personal service is not necessary, nor is it requisite to leave *a written* notice at the residence of the party; but it is sufficient to send to or convey verbal notice at the counting-house or place of abode of the party without leaving notice in writing⁵. And it is suffi-

¹ Ante, 257.

² Ante, 279.

³ In *Tindall v. Brown*, 1 T. R. 169.

⁴ *Shaw v. Croft*, cor. Lord Kenyon, Sittings after Trin. Term 1798. MSS. and other cases post, and Selwyn, 4th ed. 320. n. 25.

⁵ *Crosse v. Smith*, 1 M. & S. 545.—*Goldsmith v. Bland*, Bayl. 127. et post, and when personal service is not necessary, see 4 T. R. 465.—1 Bos. & Pul. 394.

Goldsmith and others v. Bland and others, at Guildhall, cor. Lord Eldon, 1st March, 1800. The plaintiffs sued the defendants as indorsers of two foreign bills, and to prove notice the plaintiffs shewed that they sent a clerk to the defendant's counting-house near the Exchange, between four and five o'clock in the afternoon, nobody was in the counting-house, the clerk saw a servant girl at the house, who said that nobody was in the way, and he returned having left no message with her. Lord Eldon told the jury, that if they thought the defendants ought to have had somebody in the counting-house at the time, he was of opinion that the plaintiffs had done all that was necessary by sending their clerk; that the notice was in law sufficient,

cient, both in the case of a foreign and an inland bill, to send notice by the post, even though the letter should miscarry; for it would be very unreasonable to make it incumbent on the holder to send a person with the notice, where perhaps the distance may be very great¹; and indeed there is considerable risk in send-

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if the time was regular, whether the defendants were solvent at the time or not. The jury thought that the defendants ought to have had somebody in the counting-house at the time, and that the plaintiffs had done all that was necessary. Verdict for the plaintiffs for £1633.

Crosse and others, assignees, &c. against Smith and others, 1 M. & S. 345. Notice to the drawers of non-payment of a bill of exchange, by sending to their counting-house, during the hours of business, on two successive days, knocking there, and making noise sufficient to be heard by persons within, and waiting there several minutes, the inner door of the counting-house being locked is sufficient, without leaving a notice in writing or sending by the post, though some of the drawers live at a small distance from the place. Per Lord Ellenborough. The counting-house is a place where all appointments respecting the business and all notices should be addressed, and it is the duty of the merchant to take care that a proper person be in attendance. It has however been argued, that notice in writing left at the counting-house, or put into the post was necessary, but the law does not require it, and with whom it was to be left? Putting a letter into the post is only one mode of giving notice, but where both parties are residing in the same town, sending a clerk is a more regular and less exceptionable mode.

¹ Saunderson v. Judge, 2 Hen. Bla. 509.—Kufh v. Weston, 3 Esp. Rep. 54.—Haynes v. Birks, 3 Bos. & Pul. 602.—Parker v. Gordon, 7 East. 385, 6.—Pearson v. Cranlan, 2 Smith's Rep. 404.—Langdon v. Mills, 5 Esp. 157.—Bayl. 128. 226. acc.—Dale v. Lubbock, 1 Barnard, B. R. 199.—Poth. Traite du Contrat de Change, part 1. chap. 5. sect. 2. art. 1, 3, 4. *semb. contra*.

Kufh v. Weston, 3 Esp. 54. Notice of the non-acceptance or non-payment of a bill of exchange is sufficiently given by proving that a letter was regularly put into the post informing the party of the fact. Assumpsit on a foreign bill of exchange drawn by Garde, at Exeter, on Messrs. Guetano and Co. at Genoa: the defendants indorsed the bill to the plaintiffs. The bill was presented for acceptance at Genoa, and the acceptance refused, the defence was, that it had not been presented in a reasonable time, nor the protest for non-acceptance sent to this country as soon as it ought to have been, and that therefore the defendants had not had due notice of its being dishonored. In answer to this, it was proved, that the bill had been put into the post-office at London, the third day after it was received from the defendants, which was the first Italian post-day after it had been so received. It was further proved, that from the disturbed state of Italy, for some time before the regular post had been interrupted, and the bill had not arrived at Genoa till a month after it became due, that it was immediately presented for acceptance, which being refused, it was protested, and the protest sent off immediately by the post to England. Lord Kenyon said, that the defendants grounded their defence on the supposed laches of the plaintiff, but he was of opinion that if the plaintiffs had sent the bill by the ordinary course of the post they had done all they were called upon

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ing notice by a private hand, where there is a regular post, for if the notice arrive later by the former than by the latter, the parties may be discharged¹, but it is reported to have been decided that the holder of a dishonored bill is not bound to send notice to the drawer by the mail or first conveyance that sets out from the place where such holder resides, and that it is sufficient, provided there be no essential delay, if he send notice by a private hand, and although such notice should thereby reach the drawer later in the same day than if it had been sent by the mail, he will not, on that account, be discharged². The safer course however is to send by the post.

to do ; that they could not foresee that the post would be interrupted, and it could not be expected that they should send the bill by a special messenger, or any extraordinary mode of conveyance. His Lordship said, he therefore thought the plaintiffs had been guilty of no laches, and were entitled to recover, and they accordingly had a verdict.

Saunderson v. Judge, 2 Hen. Bla. 509. The holder of a note wrote to the defendant, who was one of the indorsers, to say it was dishonored, and put the letter in the post, but there was no evidence that it ever reached the defendant, and the court held, that sending the letter by the post was quite sufficient.

¹ *Darbishire v. Parker*, 6 East. 8, 9.

² *Bancroft v. Hall*, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 476. This was an action against the drawer of a bill of exchange, who resided at Liverpool, the bill was accepted by one Hind, payable in London, and indorsed by the defendant to the plaintiff. The bill being dishonored, notice was given to the plaintiff, who lived at Manchester, on the 24th of May. On that day he sent a letter by a private hand to his agent at Liverpool, directing him to give Hall notice of the acceptor's default. On the 25th in the afternoon the agent received the letter, and went about six or seven in the evening to the counting-house of Hall, but after knocking at the door, and ringing a bell, no one came to receive a message. The merchants counting-houses at Liverpool do not shut up till eight or nine. The 26th was a Sunday, and notice was not in fact given till the morning of the 27th. It was objected for the defendant, that the notice was not in time after the London letter reached Manchester, a mail set out next morning to Liverpool. The plaintiff should have sent the notice by the mail, which reached Liverpool by ten o'clock, if he prefers a private conveyance, or if he attempts to give notice earlier than by law he is bound to do, and fails in giving an effectual notice, he is not therefore exempt from giving proper legal notice.

Bayley, J. Notice must be given in time, but all a man's other business is not to be suspended for the sake of giving the most expeditious notice. He is not bound to write by post as the only conveyance, or to send a letter by the very first channel which offers. He may write to a friend and send by a private conveyance. Here the notice reaches Liverpool on the 25th. No expedition could have

Notice of the dishonour of a bill sent by the two-penny post is sufficient, where the parties live within its limits, whether near or at a distance from each other, but it must be proved that the letter, conveying the notice, was put into the receiving-house at such an hour, that according to the course of the post, it would be delivered the day on which the party to whom it is addressed, was entitled to receive notice of the dishonour¹.

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Where notice is to be sent from London by the general post, it has been held that the letter containing it should be put into the post-office in Lombard-street, or at a receiving-house, and that the delivery to a bellman in the street will not be sufficient²; and it is obvious that the notice should in all cases be given by some person who will afterwards be competent to prove it.

Where there is no post, it is sufficient to send notice by the ordinary mode of conveyance, though notice by a special messenger might arrive earlier; and therefore in the case of a foreign bill it is sufficient to send it by the first regular ship bound for the place to which it is to be sent, and it is no objection, that if sent by a ship bound elsewhere it would probably have arrived sooner, though the holder wrote other letters by that ship to the place to which the notice was to be sent³. It has been recently decided that

brought it earlier. Between six and seven in the evening in that day, the witness goes to the defendant's counting-house, and it is shut up. A merchant's counting-house or residence of trade is not like a banker's shop, which closes universally at a known hour. It was the defendant's fault that he did not receive notice on the 25th, which he might have done if he had kept his counting-house open till eight or nine, which are the customary hours of closing them at Liverpool. Verdict for the plaintiff.

¹ *Scott v. Lifford*, 1 Campb. 246. 9 East. 347.—*Smith v. Mullett*, 2 Campb. 208.—*Hilton v. Fairclough*, 2 Campb. 633.

² *Ante*, 204.—*Hawkins v. Rutt*, Peake's Rep. 186. sed quære if the latter would not be sufficient.

³ *Mailman v. D'Eguino*, 2 Hen. Bla. 565. To debt on bond conditioned to pay certain bills drawn on India at sixty days sight, in case they should be returned protested. Defendant pleaded, that he had not notice so soon as he should have had, it appeared that

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where it is necessary or more convenient for the holder to send notice by other conveyance than the post, he may send a special messenger, and he may recover the reasonable expences incurred by that mode of giving notice¹.

3dly. The time when protest must be made and notice given.

There does not appear to be any express decision with respect to the time when a *foreign* bill must be protested for non-acceptance, but from analogy to the time when a protest must be made for non-payment, it should seem that in this country, it, or at least the noting, should be made within the usual hours of business², on the day when the acceptance is refused³, and that the neglect to make it at the time will only be excused by inevitable accident, such as sudden illness of the holder, robbery, or other circum-

notice was sent by the first English ships, but that by the accidental conveyance of a foreign ship, not bound for England, and by which the holder wrote to England upon other matters, notice might have been sent sooner, and would have arrived sooner, but Eyre, C. J. told the jury, that notice by the first regular ships bound for England was sufficient, and that it was not necessary to send notice by the chance conveyance of a foreign ship. The jury found for the plaintiff, and the court was satisfied with the verdict, and refused a new trial. See also *Darbishire v. Parker*, 6 East. 7.—Bayl. 128.

¹ *Pearson v. Crallan*, 2 Smith's Rep. 404. Assumpsit on a bill of exchange for £30, indorsed by the defendant to the plaintiff. The plaintiff demanded the amount of the bill and £2. 12s. 9d. costs. The defendant tendered £31. 11s. 9d. the expence incurred was on account of a messenger employed in giving the notice. The defendant objected that the holder of a bill was not entitled to give notice by a special messenger, but only by the ordinary course of the post. It was agreed that if a special messenger should be allowed it was not an unreasonable charge. The £31. 11s. 9d. having been tendered, and that fact pleaded, and this objection being made to the legality of the charge, the defendant's counsel contended that the plaintiff should be nonsuited, but the learned judge over-ruled the objection, and expressly left it to the jury to say, whether the sending by a special messenger was done wantonly or not; and it appeared that the letter possibly would not have reached the defendant for a fortnight, as he lived out of the usual course of the post, and upon this the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for the amount of the bill, and the full charge for the expences; and Lawrence, J. said, "In some parts of Yorkshire, where the manufacturers live at a distance from the post towns, the letters may lie for a long time before they are called for, and it may be necessary to send notice by a special messenger," and Lord Ellenborough, C. J. observed, "That it was rightly left to the jury if it was left for them to say whether the special messenger was necessary, and also whether the charge was reasonable. Rule Nisi refused.

² Mar. 112.

³ *Leftley v. Mills*, 4 T. R. 175.

stances¹. It has been considered, that it is sufficient to note a foreign bill for non-acceptance on the day of refusal, and that the protest may be drawn any day after by the notary, and be dated of the day the noting was made; but as this point is not settled, it is advisable to complete the protest for non-acceptance on the day it is made². We have seen that when the drawee, after the bill's remaining in his hands twenty-four hours for acceptance, requests further time to consider of it, the holder should give immediate notice to the drawer and indorsers of such request, and of the time granted³.

3dly. The time when protest must be made and notice given.

Where a foreign bill has been refused acceptance, and the party to whom notice is to be given is resident abroad, it seems that notice of the protest should be communicated to him, and it is advisable to send a copy of such protest; but where such party is resident in England, it suffices to give notice to him of the dishonour, without informing him of the protest, because

¹ Poth. pl. 144.

² *Goostrey v. Mead*, Bul. N. P. 271.—*Chaters v. Bell*, 4 Esp. 48. *Rogers v. Stephens*, 2 T. R. 714.—*Orr v. Maginnis*, 7 East. 361. *Robins v. Gibson*, 1 M. & S. 288.—*Bayl.* 122, 3.—*Selwyn*, 4th ed. 345, 6.

Chaters v. Bell, 4 Esp. C. N. P. 48. In an action by an indorsee against an indorser of a foreign bill, it appeared that the bill became due on the 24th of April, when payment was demanded and refused, and the bill noted for non-payment. Regular notice of the dishonour was given to the defendant, but he refused payment, because there was no protest. On the 14th of May the protest was formally drawn up, and this action was afterwards brought. Lord Kenyon said, he was of opinion that if the bill was regularly presented, and noted at the time, the protest might be made at any future period. A verdict was found for the plaintiff, but the point was reserved; and on the case coming on to be tried again on a *venire facias de novo* before Lord Ellenborough, his lordship expressed his concurrence with the opinion of Lord Kenyon. But in *Selwyn* N. P. 4th ed. 345, 6. it is stated, that a case was reserved in *Chaters v. Bell* for the opinion of the court, and that the court after argument, conceiving the question to be of great importance, directed it to be turned into a special verdict; but that the sum in dispute being small, and the parties unwilling to incur the expence of a special verdict, the recommendation of the court was not attended to, and the case was not mentioned again. See also *Bayl.* 122.

³ *Ingram v. Foster*, 2 Smith's Rep. 243. Ante, 212, 3.

3dly. The time when protest must be made and notice given.

he may enquire into the fact¹. But in all cases notice of the non-acceptance must be sent or given to the parties to whom the holder means to resort within a reasonable time after the dishonour of the bill²; and the holder must not delay giving notice till the bill is protested also for non-payment³. It has been much disputed, whether it is the province of the court or of the jury, to decide what is a reasonable time for this purpose⁴; it should seem that the better opinion is, that what is a reasonable time for giving notice, is a question partly of fact and partly of law; the jury are to find the facts, such as the distance at which the persons live from each other, the course of the post, &c. but when those facts are established, the reasonableness of the time becomes a question of law, and consequently to be determined by the court, and not by the jury⁵.

¹ *Robins v. Gibson*, 1 M. & S. 288.—3 Campb. 334. S. C.—*Cromwell v. Hynson*, 2 Esp. Rep. 511.—*Goostrey v. Mead*, Bull. N. P. 271, 2.—*Gilb. Ev.* 79.—*Pothier, Traite du Contrat de Change*, part 1. ch. 5. s. 150.—*Manning. Ind.* 66.

Robins v. Gibson, 1 M. & S. 288.—3 Campb. 334. S. C.—This was an action by the plaintiff as indorsee against the defendant as drawer of a foreign bill of exchange. It appeared at the trial that the defendant drew the bill at Buenos Ayres, and previously to the time of its becoming due, returned to this country. When the bill became due it was dishonoured and duly protested, and notice of the dishonour, but not of the bill's having been protested, was left at the defendant's house. Lord Ellenborough held the notice sufficient, and the plaintiff had a verdict; and on a motion for a new trial, his lordship said, it did not appear that the defendant requested to have the protest, and it would be hazarding too much to leave it without some request. He had due notice of the fact of dishonour of the bill; and as the circumstances of parties alter, the rule respecting notice also changes according to the convenience of the case. If the party is abroad, he cannot know of the fact of the bill's having been protested, except by having notice of the protest itself: but if he be at home, it is easy for him, by making enquiry, to ascertain that fact. Rule refused.

² *Darbishire v. Parker*, 6 East. 3. 14. 16.—*Haynes v. Birks*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 601, 2.

³ *Goostrey v. Mead*, Bull. N. P. 271.—*Roscoe v. Hardy*, 12 East. 434.

⁴ *Tindal v. Brown*, 1 T. R. 168.—See the cases, Bayl. 123. n. 3.

⁵ Per Lord Mansfield, C. J. and Buller, J. in *Tindal v. Brown*, 1 T. R. 168.—*Darbishire v. Parker*, 6 East. 3. 9, 10. 12.—*Haynes v. Birks*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 599.—Bayl. 123. acc.—*Russel v. Langstaff*, Dougl. 514. *contra*.

Bateman v. Joseph, 12 East. 433.—2 Campb. 461.—In this case it

It was once thought, that it would be sufficient to charge the drawer, if notice of the dishonour of a bill were given to him even at the end of two months, provided he had not in the interim sustained any particular damage by the delay¹; but it is now settled, that in the case of a foreign bill notice should be given on the day of the refusal to accept, if any post or ordinary conveyance sets out that day²; and if not, by the next earliest ordinary conveyance³.

3dly. The time when protest must be made and notice given.

With respect to inland bills not protested for non-acceptance, notice of the refusal to accept should in all cases be given within a reasonable time; it should be given at least on the following day⁴. With reference to the rule which prevails in giving notice of non-payment, it seems, that each party is entitled to a day, to notify the dishonour to his immediate indorser, but that if the notice is to be given by the post, it must be sent off by the next convenient post, where the parties do not reside in the same place, and when they do, then by the post so as to be received on the day after that on which the party giving notice was first informed of the dishonour of the bill⁵. When an inland bill is protested for non-acceptance,

was held, that the want of due notice of the dishonour of a bill is answered by shewing the holder's ignorance of the place of residence of the prior indorser whom he sues, and whether he used due diligence to find out the place of residence is a question of fact to be left to the jury. The court all agreed, that this was a question proper to be left to the jury, and they had decided it. Whether due notice has been given of the dishonour of a bill, all the circumstances necessary for the giving of such notice being known, is a question of law; but whether the holder have used due diligence to discover the place of residence of the person to whom the notice is to be given, is a question of fact for the jury. See also *Per Grose, J. in Scott v. Lifford*, 9 East. 347.—*Sturges v. Derrick*, 1 Wightw. 76.

¹ *Butler v. Play*, 1 Mod. 27.—*Sarsfield v. Witherly*, Comb. 152.—*Mogadara v. Holt*, 1 Show. 318.—12 Mod. 15. S. C.

² *Leftley v. Mills*, 4 T. R. 174.—*Anon. Lord Raym.* 743.—*Coleman v. Sayer*, 2 Stra. 829.—Mar. 97.

³ *Muilman v. D'Eguino*, 2 Hen. Bla. 565.

⁴ *Leftley v. Mills*, 4 T. R. 170.—See post, as to notice of non-payment, and *Haynes v. Birks*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 601.—*Darbishire v. Barker*, 6 East. 3. and post, as to presentment of checks for payment.

⁵ *Darbishire v. Parker*, 6 East. 3.—*Smith v. Mullett*, 2 Campb 208.

3dly. The time when protest must be made and notice given.

if the protest or notice thereof be not sent within fourteen days after it is made, the drawer or indorser will not be liable to damages, &c. under the 3 & 4 Anne, c. 9, s. 5.¹

4thly. By whom notice must be given.

We have already seen that the notoriety of the insolvency of the drawee, as in the case of bankruptcy, constitutes no excuse for the neglect of the holder to give notice of non-acceptance and non-payment to the drawer and indorsers²; and it appears to have been considered that such notice must come from the holder³, and that it will not suffice if it come from any other party, because merely that the parties may immediately call on those who are liable to them for an indemnity, but it must import that, the holder intends to stand in his legal rights and to resort to them for payment⁴; and therefore, where the drawer having notice before the

¹ See this section, post, Appendix.

² Ante, 271, 2.—Esdaile v. Sowerby, 11 East. 117.

³ Bayl. 116, 7.—Tindal v. Brown, 1 T. R. 170.—Ex parte Barclay, 7 Ves. jun. 597, 8.—Staples v. Okines, 1 Esp. Rep. 333, ante, 266.—Kyd. 125.

Tindal v. Brown, 1 T. R. 167, 186. Per Ashhurst, J. Notice means something more than knowledge, because it is competent to the holder to give credit to the maker. It is not enough to say that the maker of a note does not intend to pay, but that the holder does not intend to give credit to such maker; the party ought to know whether the holder intends to give credit to the maker or to resort to him. Per Buller, J. The notice ought to purport that the holder looks to the party for payment, and a notice from another person cannot be sufficient, it must come from the holder.

Ex parte Barclay, 7 Ves. jun. 597. Barclay was indorsee and holder of two bills drawn by Kemp upon Dearlow, and indorsed by Clay to Barclay. These bills were dishonoured, of which Clay gave notice to Kemp, and on petition by Barclay to be allowed to prove these bills, under a commission of bankrupt issued against Kemp; one question was, whether this notice from Clay, and not from Barclay the holder, was sufficient. And Lord Eldon, after referring to Tindal v. Brown, held, that the notice ought to have come from the holder, and dismissed the petition. And he said, "The settled doctrine is according to the language of Mr. Justice Buller, in Tindal v. Brown, and there is great reason in it, for the ground of discharging the drawee is, that the holder gives credit to some persons liable as between him and the drawee. Notice from any other person that the bill is not paid, is not notice that the holder does not give credit to a third person. The doctrine has been acted upon very often since." In Selw. Ni. Pri. 4th ed. 320, note 25, it is observed, that in this case the attention of the court, was not directed to Lord Kenyon's opinion in Shaw v. Croft, post, 294.

⁴ Id. Ibid.

bill was due that the acceptor had failed, gave another person money to pay the bill, and the holder neglected to give notice of the dishonour, it was holden that the drawer was discharged¹. And in a subsequent case, it was held, that notice of the dishonour of a bill of exchange must be given to the drawer and indorsers by the holder himself, or some person authorized by him, or at least not by a mere stranger². And where a few days *before a bill became due*, the acceptor informed the drawer he would be unable to pay it, and told such drawer that he must take it up and gave him part of the amount to assist him in so doing, and the latter promised to take up the bill accordingly; it was held, that in an action by the indorsee against the drawer, the latter might nevertheless set up as a defence that the bill was not duly presented for payment, and that he had not regular notice of the dishonour, but that the sum paid him by the acceptor was money had and received to the plaintiff's use³.

4thly By whom
notice must be
given.

However, according to the more recent decisions, it is not absolutely necessary that the notice should come from the person who holds the bill when it has been dishonoured, and it suffices if it be given after the bill was dishonoured by any person who is a party to the bill, and who would, on the same being returned to him, have a right of action thereon, and such notice will

¹ Nicholson v. Gouthit, ante, 272, 3.—Whitfield v. Savage, 2 Bos. & Pul. 277; and see Esdaile v. Sowerby, 11 East. 114, 117.

² Stewart v. Kennett, 2 Campb. 177. The notice of non-payment had been given by Cutler, who had been employed by the original parties to the bill to get it discounted, but it did not appear that he had any authority or direction from any party to the bill to give notice of the dishonour. Per Lord Ellenborough, If you could make Cutler the agent of the holder of the bill, the notice would be sufficient, but in reality he was a mere stranger. The bill when dishonoured lay at the bankers of Abbott, with whom Cutler had no sort of connection. But the notice must come from the person who can give the drawer or indorser his immediate remedy upon the bill, otherwise it is merely an historical fact. In this case Cutler was not possessed of the bill, and had no controul over it. The defendant therefore is not proved to have had any legal notice of the dishonour of the bill, and is discharged from the liability he contracted by indorsing it. Plaintiff nonsuited.

³ Baker v. Birch, 3 Campb. 107.

5thly. To whom notice must be given.

and notice should in general be given to a person who has guaranteed the payment of the bill¹. When the party entitled to notice is abroad at the time of the dishonour, if he have a place of residence in England, it will be sufficient to leave notice of non-acceptance at that place, and a demand of acceptance or payment from his wife, or servant, would in such case be regular².

It was once thought, that notice of non-acceptance must in all cases be given to the drawer of the bill, and demand of payment made of him, or that in default thereof the indorser would be discharged, notwithstanding they had regular notice. This opinion, however, so far as it related to foreign bills, was over-ruled in the case of *Bromley v. Frazier*³; and in its relation to inland bills, in the case of *Heylin and others against Adamson*⁴, and as to cheques on bankers in *Richford v. Ridge*⁵, on the principle, that to require a demand of the drawer, would be laying such a clog upon bills, as would deter every person from taking them, since the drawer may perhaps live abroad; besides the acceptor is primarily liable, and as the act of indorsing a bill is equivalent to making a new bill, the indorser thereby undertakes as well as the drawer, that the drawee shall honour the bill, and the holder may consequently immediately resort to him, without calling on any of the other parties.

With respect to inland bills protested for non-acceptance, the 3 & 4 Anne, c. 9, directs the protest or no-

¹ Ante, 264, 5.—Bayl. 138, 9. When notice need not be given of a substituted bill, see 3 M. & S. 362. 7 Taunt. 312.

² *Cromwell v. Hynson*, 2 Esp. Rep. 511, 512.—*Walwyn v. St. Quintin*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 652; but see 5 Esp. Rep. 175.

³ *Bromley v. Frazier*, 1 Stra. 441.—Selw. N. P. 4th ed. 324.

⁴ *Heylin v. Adamson*, 2 Burr. 669.—*Pardo v. Fuller*, Com. Rep. 579.—*Bromley v. Frazier*, 1 Stra. 441. Selw. N. P. 4th ed. 324.

⁵ 2 Campb. 539, per Lord Ellenborough. The holder of a cheque is not bound to give notice of its dishonour to the drawer for the purpose of charging the person from whom he received it. He does enough if he presents it with due diligence to the banker on whom it is drawn, and gives due notice of its dishonour to those only against whom he seeks his remedy.

tice thereof to be given to the person from whom the bill was received'. The preceding observation relative to notice from the holder enuring to the benefit of the antecedent parties here applies². Notice to one of several partners, joint indorsers, is notice to all, and if one of several drawers be also the acceptor, and there be no fraud in the transaction, no notice in fact is necessary to the other drawers³. Nor is it necessary to give notice to a party who has by his conduct dispensed with it, as by engaging to call on the holder, and ascertain whether the acceptor has paid the bill⁴.

5thly. To whom notice must be given.

¹ Et vide *Heylin v. Adamson*, Burr. 674.

² Ante, 293, 4.

³ *Porthouse v. Parker and others*, 1 Campb. 82.—*Alderson v. Pope*, Id. 404.; and see *Jacand v. French*, 12 East. 317. 322, 3. and per Lord Ellenborough, in *Bignold v. Waterhouse*, 1 M. & S. 259.—Bayl. 142.

Porthouse v. Parker and others, 1 Campb. 82. This was an action against the drawees of a bill of exchange for £461. 3s. at the suit of the payee. The bill purported to be drawn by one Wood, as the agent of George James and John Parker. There was no proof that Wood had authority from the defendants to draw the bill, but a witness swore that he, as the agent of John Parker, the drawee, and one of the defendants, had accepted it on his account. Lord Ellenborough held, that the bill having been accepted by order of one of the defendants, this was sufficient evidence of its having been regularly drawn; and further that the acceptor being likewise a drawer, there would be no occasion for the plaintiff to prove that the defendants had received express notice of the dishonour of the bill, as this must necessarily have been known to one of them, and the knowledge of the one was the knowledge of all. Verdict for the plaintiff.

In *Bignold v. Waterhouse*, 1 M. & S. 259. Lord Ellenborough said, "It is a general rule indeed, that where several are concerned together in partnership, notice to one is equivalent to notice to all, but that rule presumes that the transaction is *bonâ fide*. Here, however, the case is different, the agreement is made with one of the defendants for his individual benefit alone, and the others are not parties concerned, not being made privy to the agreement. It was incumbent, therefore, on the plaintiffs, to show that notice was given to the other partners."

⁴ *Phipson v. Kneller*, 4 Campb. 285. This was an action against the drawer of a bill of exchange, and the question was, whether the plaintiff was excused for not having given him notice of the dishonour of the bill. It was proved that a few days before the bill became due, the defendant called at the counting-house of the plaintiff, whom he knew to be the holder; and being asked the place of his residence, he said he had no regular residence; he was living among his friends, and he would call and see if the bill was paid by the acceptor. Per Lord Ellenborough, this dispensed with notice, and threw upon the defendant himself the duty of enquiring if the bill was paid. Verdict for the plaintiff.

ethly. Of the liability of the parties to a bill on non-acceptance.

The liability of the various parties to a bill, on the dishonour of it by the drawee, may be collected from the previous pages. If the drawee on presentment for acceptance, dishonour the bill, either wholly or partially, the holder may insist on immediate payment by the parties liable to him, as well of the drawer¹, as of the prior indorsers², or in default thereof, may *instantly* commence actions against each of them; and though the instrument may be somewhat like a note, yet if it also resemble a bill, and acceptance be refused, an action is immediately sustainable³. On the same principle it was decided, that if a man draw a bill and commit an act of bankruptcy, and afterwards the bill be returned for non-acceptance, the debt is contracted before the act of bankruptcy, and may be proved under the commission, which could not have been the case, if the time when notice of non-acceptance was given had been considered as the period when the debt was contracted⁴. So where the defendant, having been arrested, gave the plaintiff a draft for part of the money due, on which he was discharged out of custody, but the draft having been dishonoured, he was re-

¹ Ante, 138.—Bayl. 149, 150.—Bright v. Purrier, Bul. N. P. 269, ante, 138.—Mitford v. Mayor, Dougl. 55, ante, 138. But Pothier considers the drawer as merely liable to indemnify the holder against the probable non-payment at maturity. *Traite du Contrat de Change*, part 1, ch. 4, num. 70.

² Ballingalls v. Gloster, 3 East. 481.—4 Esp. Rep. 268. S. C.—Bishop v. Young, 2 Bos. & Pul. 83. n. a.

Ballingalls v. Gloster, 3 East. Rep. 481. John Gloster drew a bill on Jackson payable to Anthony Gloster's order, and the latter indorsed it to the plaintiffs. Jackson refused acceptance, on which the plaintiffs immediately sued Anthony Gloster without waiting till the bill, which was drawn at ninety days sight, would have been due. The plaintiffs had a verdict, with liberty to the defendant to move for a nonsuit. On a rule nisi accordingly it was urged, that an indorser stood in a situation different from that of a drawer, and that although a drawer might be sued immediately on non-acceptance, an indorser could not, until the expiration of the time limited for the payment of the bill. But the court was clear that the case of an indorser was not distinguishable from that of a drawer, and that every indorser was a new drawer. Rule discharged.

³ Allen v. Mawras, 4 Campb. 115, ante, 28.

⁴ Macarty v. Barrow, 2 Stra. 949.—7 East. 437. S. C.—Chilton v. Whiffin, 3 Wils. 16.

taken upon the same writ, it was decided that the proceedings were regular and justifiable; and Lord Kenyon said, that in cases of this kind, if the bill which is given in payment do not turn out to be productive, it is not that which it purported to be, and that which the party receiving it expected, and therefore he may consider it as a nullity, and act as if no such bill had been given¹: and in a recent case where a bill given in payment for goods sold was refused acceptance, it was held that the payee having declared against the drawer on the bill, and joined counts for goods sold, may treat the bill as a nullity, and recover his demand on the latter counts, although the credit on the bill be not expired, and that it is sufficient in such an action to prove a presentment to the drawee for acceptance, without shewing that the bill was protested for non-acceptance, or that the drawer had notice of the dishonour².

only. Of the liability of the parties to a bill on non-acceptance.

It seems, however, that the drawer and indorser have a reasonable time allowed them to pay the bill, after notice of the dishonour, and that the circumstance of their not paying the amount immediately they received such notice, will not preclude them from pleading a tender, provided they offer to pay the amount on the same day, and before a writ has been issued, though the acceptor must pay the bill on presentment, and cannot plead a subsequent tender³.

¹ Puckford v. Maxwell, 6 T. R. 52. ante, 124, 5.

² Hickley v. Hardy, 1 Moore Rep. 61; but quære as to the latter point.

³ Walker v. Barnes, 1 Marsh. 36.—5 Taunt. 240, S. C.—Hume v. Peploe, 8 East. 168.

Walker v. Barnes, 1 Marsh. 36. The drawer of a bill is only bound to pay within reasonable time after receiving notice of its being dishonoured, therefore where he received notice the day after the bill became due, a tender on the following day was held to be in time. Per Mansfield, C. J. This is an action by the indorsee of a bill of exchange against the drawer, whose undertaking is to pay the holder on failure by the acceptor. When the bill is dishonoured the drawer cannot find out by inspection who is the holder, and therefore cannot pay it till he has notice of the dishonour. When he has received notice, he is bound to pay within reasonable time, and if he do not will be answerable

6thly. Of the liability of the parties to a bill on non-acceptance.

When due notice of the non-acceptance has been given to the drawer and indorsers, it is not necessary afterwards to present the bill for payment, or if such presentment be made to give notice of the dishonour¹.

With respect to the amount of the sum which the drawer and indorsers are bound to pay, they are liable, where a bill has been protested, not only to the payment of the principal sum, but to damages, interest, &c.² Where A. deposited a sum of money at the banking-house of B. in Paris, for which B. gave him his note "payable in Paris;" "or at the choice of the bearer, at the Union Bank, in Dover, or at B.'s usual residence in London, according to the course of exchange upon Paris;" and after this note was given, the direct course of exchange between London and Paris ceased altogether, having been, previously to its total cessation, extremely low; the note was at a subsequent period presented for acceptance and payment at the residence of B. in London, at which time there was a circuitous course of exchange upon Paris by way of Hamburgh, and it was holden, that A. was entitled to recover upon the note according to such circuitous course of exchange upon Paris, at the time when the note was presented³. Where, however, acceptance or payment have been rendered illegal by an act of this country, the drawer, &c. may not be liable to be sued on the bill⁴; and we have already seen, that if a person

for damages. The bill became due on the 11th, on the 12th he received a note from the plaintiff's attorney, informing him of the dishonour, and on the 13th he tenders. Is not this a reasonable compliance with his undertaking? No jury could give even a farthing damages.—Rule discharged.

¹ Price v. Dardell, Sittings at Guildhall, London, 11th Dec. 1794, cor. Lord Kenyon, his Lordship said, it is in no case necessary to give notice when it is a second dishonour; and in De La Torre v. Barclay and another, 1 Stark. C. N. P. 7, Lord Ellenborough said, that as the bill had been protested for non-acceptance, a second protest was perfectly gratuitous and unnecessary. See also Forster v. Jurdison, 16 East. 105.

² 8 & 9 Wm. 3. and 3 & 4 Anne, c. 9. et post, of the verdict and damages.

³ Pollard v. Herries, 3 Bos. & Pul. 335.

⁴ Pollard v. Herries, 3 Bos. & Pul. 340.

draw a bill in a foreign country upon another in England, and it be protested for non-acceptance, the drawer will be discharged from liability to be sued in this country, by his having obtained a certificate of discharge, according to the law of the country where he drew the bill¹. In *De Tastet v. Baring*², a verdict having passed for the defendants, in an action to recover the amount of the re-exchange upon the dishonour of a bill drawn in London on Lisbon, upon evidence that the enemy were in possession of Portugal when the bill became due, and Lisbon was then blockaded by a British squadron, and there was in fact no direct exchange between London and Lisbon, though bills had in some few instances been negociated between them through Hamburgh and America about that period, the court refused to grant a new trial, on the presumption that the jury had found their verdict on the fact, that no re-exchange was proved to their satisfaction to have existed between Lisbon and London at the time; the question having been properly left to them to allow damages in the name of re-exchange, if the plaintiff, who had indorsed the dishonoured bill to the holder, had either paid or were liable to pay re-exchange, and saving the question of law, whether any re-exchange could be allowed between this and an enemy's country.

6thly. Of the liability of the parties to a bill on non-acceptance.

If the holder of a bill neglect to present it for acceptance when necessary, or to give notice of non-acceptance to those persons entitled to object to the want of it, such conduct, we have seen, discharges them from their respective liabilities³.

The consequences, however, of a neglect to give notice of non-acceptance, or to protest a foreign bill, may be waived by the person entitled to take advantage of them. Thus it has been decided,

7thly. How the consequences of a neglect to give notice may be waived, or otherwise done away.

¹ Ante, 119, 120.—*Potter v. Brown*, 5 East. 124.

² 11 East. 265.

³ Ante, 256.

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that a payment even of part ¹, or a promise to pay ²,

¹ Bayl. 130, 1. 220, 1. *Vaughan v. Fuller*, 2 Stra. 1246, was an action against the indorser of a note, and it being proved that the defendant had paid part, Lee, C. J. held that that made the proof of demand upon the maker unnecessary.

Horford v. Wilson, 1 Taunt. 12. In an action by the indorsee against the drawer of a bill, which had been dishonoured by the acceptor, it appeared that the defendant had paid part of the money due upon the bill without making objection for want of notice of the dishonour, and the court held upon a motion for a new trial, that from this the jury were warranted in presuming that due notice had been given.

² Bayl. 130, 1. 220, 1.—Selw. N. P. 4th ed. 323.—*Haddock v. Bury*, Mid. Ter. 3 Geo. 2. MS. Burnet, J. 7 East. 236, n. a. Per Lord Raymond, C. J. "if an indorsee has neglected to demand of the maker of the note on due time, a subsequent promise to pay by the indorser will cure this laches."

Whitaker v. Morris, Worcester Lent Ass. 1756. MS. 1 Esp. N. P. 58. Select Ca. 171, S. C. The plaintiff received a note of Yardley, payable to the defendant. When it was due the plaintiff sent the note to demand the money, but not finding Yardley, he kept the note for seventeen or eighteen days, during which time it was proved that he used due diligence to find him; he then wrote to his agent to inform the defendant, who returned no answer. About ten days after the agent went to the defendant, who acknowledged the receipt of the letter, and said, the reason why he had not sent an answer was, that Yardley had promised to order payment in London, and as it was not paid "that he would certainly pay it the day after." The defendants witnesses proved that Yardley was solvent when the note became due, and for sometime after, but then was insolvent. Per Wilmot, J. Holding the note for so long a time was unreasonable, and would have discharged the defendant, if, when he received the first notice, he had disclaimed the having any thing to do with it, but by his conduct, he has waived the neglect and acquitted the plaintiff, however, he left it to the jury, who found for the defendant.

Lundie v. Robertson, 7 East. 231.—3 Smith Rep. 225. S. C. Indorsee against an indorser of a bill, no evidence was given of presentment or notice, but it was proved, that on being called upon by the plaintiff's clerk some months after the bill was due, the defendant said "he had not the cash by him, but if the clerk would call in a day or two and bring the account, (meaning of the expences) he would pay it." The bill was shewn to him at the time; on a second application he offered a bill on London for the debt and expences, which was refused; he then said, that "he had not had regular notice, but as the debt was justly due he would pay it." Chambre, J. thought this sufficient, and verdict for the plaintiff. On a rule nisi for a new trial, and cause shewn, Lord Ellenborough said, the case admits of no doubt; it was to be presumed *prima facie* from the promise to pay, that the bill had been presented in time, and that due notice had been given, that no objection could be made to payment, and that every thing had been rightly done; this superseded the necessity of the ordinary proof, the other conversation does not vary the case, for though the defendant said, he had not had notice, he waived that objection. See *Gibbon v. Coggon*, 2 Campb. N. P. C. 188, where from the drawers promising to pay a bill, Lord Ellenborough directed the jury to presume that it had been duly protested, See also *Taylor v. Jones*, 2 Campb. 105.

Wood v. Brown, 1 Stark. 217. Proof of a letter from the drawer and indorser of an accommodation bill, that the bill will be satisfied be-

or to "see it paid," or an acknowledgment that "it must be paid," or a promise that "he will set the matter to rights," made by the person insisting on the want of notice, after he was aware of the laches amounts, to a waiver of the consequence of the laches of the holder, and admits his right of action. So where an indorsee three months after a bill became due, demanded payment of the indorser, who first promised to pay it if he would call

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fore the next term, supersedes the necessity of proving the dishonour of the bill and notice.

¹ *Hopes v. Alder*, 6 East. 16. Action against drawer to whom no notice of non-payment had been given. It was proved that upon a meeting sometime after, but before the action brought between the plaintiff and defendant, the latter said "I will see it paid." It was urged for the plaintiff, that this subsequent promise for which there was certainly an equitable consideration, subjected the defendant to liability. This was admitted by the defendant's counsel, and Lord Kenyon, C. J. said, "This subsequent promise was decisive."

² *Rogers v. Stephens*, 2 T. R. 713. In an action against the drawer of a foreign bill, an objection was taken that there was no protest, but it appearing that the defendant had no effects in the hands of the drawees when the bills were drawn, or afterwards, and that on being pressed for payment by the plaintiff's agent after the bill was dishonoured, he had said "*it must be paid*." Lord Kenyon thought a protest or notice unnecessary, and directed the jury to find for the plaintiff, which they did. A rule was afterwards granted to shew cause why there should not be a new trial, and it was stated then, and upon shewing cause that the defendant had really been prejudiced by want of notice to the amount of the bill, that he had advanced money to one Calvert to the amount before the bill was drawn; that Calvert desired him to draw on the drawees as Calvert's agents; that he did so on a supposition that Calvert had effects in their hands; that he afterwards settled with Calvert, and upon a reliance that the bill was paid, delivered him up effects to more than the value of the bill, and that Calvert was since insolvent; that the defendant was prepared with evidence to this effect, but that Lord Kenyon delivered it as his opinion, that it did not make a protest or notice necessary. Lord Kenyon did not recollect that this evidence was offered, but he and all the court thought it answered by the defendant's admission that "the bill must be paid," because that was an admission that the plaintiff had a right to resort to him upon the bill, and that he had received no damage by the want of notice, and was a promise to pay.

³ *Anson v. Bailey*, Bul. N. P. 276. The indorsee of a note presented it for payment, but the maker pretended that the payee had promised not to indorse it over without acquainting him, and so put off the indorsee from time to time for three weeks; at the end of that period the indorsee wrote twice to the payee, stating what he had done, and the maker's excuse; the payee answered, that "when he came to town he would set the matter right;" and upon an action by the indorser against the payee, the jury found for the plaintiff, though the maker became bankrupt before the second letter was written, and though he continued solvent for three weeks after the note was due. See also *Wilkes v. Jackes*, Peake, 202.

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again with the account, and afterwards said that he had not had regular notice, but as the debt was justly due he would pay it, it was held that the first conversation being an absolute promise to pay the bill, was *prima facie* an admission that the bill had been presented to the acceptor for payment in due time, and had been dishonoured, and that due notice had been given of it to the indorser, and superseded the necessity of other proof to satisfy those averments in the declaration, and that the second conversation only limited the inference from the former, so far as the want of regular notice of the dishonour to the defendant went, which objection he waived¹. So where the drawer of a foreign bill, upon being applied to for payment, said, "my affairs are at this moment deranged, but I shall be glad to pay it as soon as my accounts with my agent are cleared," it was decided that it was unnecessary to prove the protest of the bill².

It seems to have been once considered that a misapprehension of the *legal* liability would prevent a subsequent promise to pay from being obligatory³;

¹ *Lundie v. Robertson*, 7 East. 231.—*Gibbon v. Coggon*, 2 Campb. 188. ante, 302.

² *Gibbon v. Coggon*, 2 Campb. 188.

³ *Chatfield v. Paxton and Co.* Sittings after Trin. Term, 38 Geo. 3. K. B. MSS. The plaintiff gave a bill to the defendants on Luard and Co. The defendants gave time to the acceptors, and they afterwards became insolvent, of both which circumstances the defendants gave the plaintiff notice, and he at their request, in a letter, accepted another bill, which he afterwards paid; and this action was brought to recover back the money paid. Lord Kenyon—"My opinion is against the defendants; it is not only necessary that the plaintiff should know all the facts, but that he should know the legal consequences of them; it seems to me that the plaintiff did not know the legal consequence of them, and that he paid this money under an idea that he might be compelled to pay it. When the defendants granted this indulgence of two months to Luard and Co. they gave it at their own risk. Where a man, knowing all the facts explicitly, and being under no misapprehensions with regard to any of them, nor of the law acting upon them, chooses to pay a sum of money, *volenti non fit injuria*, he shall not recover it back again; but the letters of the plaintiff in this case prove directly the contrary, for they are written in a complaining style. Verdict for the plaintiff £2000 and interest from the time of payment. Erskine and Giles for the plaintiff—Gibbs for the defendants;—See this case observed upon in *Bilbie v. Lumley*, 2 East. 471. and *Williams v. Bartholomew*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 326.—In *Stevens v. Lynch*, 12 East. 38, the court said, this case proceeded on the ground that the party was ignorant of the facts.

but from the case of *Bilbie v. Lumley* and others¹, it appears that money paid by one knowing (or having the means of such knowledge in his power) all the circumstances, cannot, unless there has been deceit or fraud on the part of the holder, be recovered back again on account of such payment having been made under an ignorance of the law, although the party paying expressly declared that he paid without prejudice²; and as an objection made by a drawer or indorser to pay the bill, on the ground of the want of notice, is *stricti juris*, and frequently does not meet the justice of the case, it may be inferred from this case, and it is indeed now clearly established, that even a mere promise to pay, made after notice of the laches of the holder, would be binding, though the party making it misapprehended the law. And therefore, where the drawer of a bill of exchange, knowing that time had been given by the holder to the acceptor, but apprehending that he was still liable upon the bill in default of the acceptor, three months after it was due, said, "I know I am liable, and if the acceptor does not pay it I will," it was adjudged that he was bound by such promise³. And such a promise will dispense with the necessity for a protest of a foreign bill⁴.

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A promise to pay made after a declaration filed, not only precludes the party from availing himself of the laches of the holder, but also dispenses with evidence in proof of the allegations in such declarations⁵; and

¹ *Bilbie v. Lumley*, 2 East. 469.—*Brisbane v. Dacres*, 5 Taunt. 143. *Williams v. Bartholomew*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 326.—*Stevens v. Lynch*, 12 East. 38.

² See also *Brown v. M'Kinnally*, 1 Esp. Rep. 279.—*Marriot v. Hampton*, 2 Esp. Rep. 546.—*Cartwright v. Rowley*, id. 723.

³ *Stevens v. Lynch*, 12 East. 38.—2 Campb. 322, S. C. and see *Taylor v. Jones*, 2 Campb. 105.

⁴ *Gibbon v. Coggon*, 2 Campb. 188, 9.—*Stevens v. Lynch*, 2 Campb. 332, 2.—*Greenway v. Hindley*, 4 Campb. 52.

⁵ *Hopley v. Dufresne*, 15 East. 275. Action against indorser of a bill accepted, payable at a banker's. Defence, no regular presentment

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if the promise be made to any party to the bill, another person who has afterwards taken it up may avail himself of such promise and sue the party making it.

If, however, a promise to pay be made without a knowledge of the fact of non-acceptance, or of the

during banking hours. The declaration alleged a due presentment for payment, and after such declaration filed, the defendant applied to the plaintiff for the indulgence of a further extension of time to pay the bill, which was insisted upon as a waiver of the defective presentation. For defendant it was contended that there could be no waiver of the defective presentation, without shewing that the defendant knew in fact of the defect at the time, which though attempted to be, was not shewn in this case. For this was cited *Blessard v. Hirst*, (post, 307) where a subsequent promise by an indorser to pay the bill having been made under the ignorance of the prior laches of the holder by which he was discharged, was held to be no waiver of the objection. For the plaintiff the counsel relied principally on the waiver which took place, after declaration, containing the allegation that the bill was duly presented for payment, was filed; and therefore after the defendant's attention was called to the fact, and he referred to *Lundie v. Robertson*, (ante, 302) where a promise by an indorser to pay the bill three months after it became due, was held to be *prima facie* evidence of his admission that the bill had been presented to the acceptor for payment in due time, and dishonoured, and due notice of it given to him. Lord Ellenborough, C. J. stopping the argument, said, that the court thought that it should have been left to the jury to say whether under the circumstances of the case, the defendant had notice at the time of his application for indulgence, that there had been no due presentation, and therefore made the rule absolute.

¹ Bayl. 221, 2.—*Potter v. Rayworth*, 13 East. 417. Indorsee of a note against the payee and indorser. It appeared that the note which had been negotiated in the country, had been indorsed by the defendant to Fulford, by him to the plaintiff, by the plaintiff to Kirton, and by him to others before it became due; a fortnight after it had become due, Kirton, who had taken it up, called on the defendant, who until then had received no notice of its dishonour, *the defendant then promised Kirton to pay him* the next day; having failed in this, Kirton resorted to the plaintiff who paid the amount, and the defence now being the want of notice, the question was, whether the plaintiff could avail himself of this promise so made to Kirton. *Graham, B.* directed a verdict for the plaintiff, and on motion to set aside, the court held, that this promise was an acknowledgement by the defendant either with notice or that without notice, he was the proper person to pay the note, and refused a rule. Lord Ellenborough, C. J. said, that whether the promise to pay were made to the plaintiff or any other party who held the note at the time, it was equally evidence that the defendant was conscious of his liability to pay the note which must be because he had had due notice of the dishonour. Bayley, J. considered the promise by the defendant either as an acknowledgment that he had had due notice of the dishonour, or that without such notice he was the proper person to pay the note as for the party whose use it was drawn. Rule absolute.

laches of the holder, it will not be binding¹; and even a payment under such circumstances might, if the party making it were prejudiced by the conduct of the holder, and there were any wilful concealment on his part, be recovered back². The promise also should amount to an admission of the holder's right to receive payment, and therefore where a foreigner said, "I am not acquainted with your laws, if I am bound to pay it I will," such promise was not considered as a waiver of the objection of want of notice³; and it

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¹ *Blessard v. Hirst*, 5 Burr. 2672.—*Goodall v. Dolley*, 1 T. R. 712. *Williams v. Bartholomew*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 326.—*Bayl.* 79.—*Stevens v. Lynch*, 2 Campb. 333. admitted in 12 East. 39. S. C.—*Hopley v. Dufresne*, 15 East. 276, 7, ante, 305, note 5.

Blessard v. Hirst and another, Burr. 2670. The defendant indorsed a bill to the plaintiff, and he indorsed it over; his indorsee presented it for acceptance a month before it became due, and acceptance was refused; it was afterwards presented for payment, and payment was refused, of which notice was given to the defendants, but they had no notice of the refusal to accept. The drawer was a bankrupt before the bill became due, but he continued in credit three weeks after the presentment for acceptance. Three days after the notice, one of the defendants called on the plaintiff at Bradford, on his way to Leeds, and *he said he would take up the bill as he returned*, but on his return he said he was advised he was not bound to do it, upon which this action was brought; and on a case reserved, the court held, that though the holder might not have been obliged to present the bill for acceptance, yet as he did, he ought to have given notice of the refusal, and that by not so doing, he had taken the risk upon himself, and notwithstanding the promise of one of them, the defendants had judgment.

Goodall v. Dolly, 1 T. R. 712. A bill drawn in favour of the defendant, payable the 11th January, 1787, was presented for acceptance by the plaintiffs, the 8th November, 1786, when acceptance was refused; they gave no notice to the defendant till the 6th January, and then did not say when the bill was presented, upon which the defendant proposed paying it by instalments, but the plaintiff rejected that offer and brought his action. Heath, J. thought the defendant discharged for want of notice, and that his offer to pay being made under ignorance of the circumstances, was not binding, and the jury under his direction, found a verdict for the defendant. Upon cause shewn against the rule for a new trial, the court thought the verdict and direction right, and discharged the rule.

² *Chatfield v. Paxton*, ante, 304, n. 3.—*Williams v. Bartholomew*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 326.—*Bilbie v. Lumley*, 2 East. 469.—*Malcolm v. Fullarton*, 2 T. R. 645. Quære if not prejudiced could he sustain such action? *Farmer v. Arundel*, 2 Bla. Rep. 824.—*Price v. Neal*, 1 Bla. Rep. 390. 3 Burr. 1355. S. C.—*Ancher v. Bank of England*, Doug. 637.—*Bize v. Dickason*, 1 T. R. 285.

³ *Dennis v. Morris*, 3 Esp. Rep. 158.

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has been considered, that if the promise were made on the arrest, it shall not prejudice; but this doctrine seems questionable¹. If an indorser propose to the holder to pay the bill by instalments, and such offer be rejected, he is at liberty afterwards to avail himself of the want of notice². So it was decided in a late case, that if the drawer or indorser after being arrested, without acknowledging his liability, merely offers to give a bill, by way of compromise, for the sum demanded, this does not obviate the necessity of proving notice; and Lord Ellenborough in that case observed, "This offer is neither an acknowledgement nor a waiver to obviate the necessity of expressly proving notice of the dishonour of the bill. He might have offered to give his acceptance at one or two months, although being entitled to notice of the dishonour of the former bill, he had received none, and although upon this compromise being refused he meant to rely upon this objection. If the plaintiff accepted the offer, good and well, if not, things were to remain on the same footing as before it was made³;" and it has recently been considered, that admitting that a drawer of a bill may by circumstances *impliedly* waive his right of defence founded on the laches of the holder; yet an indorser can only do so by an *express* waiver, there being a material distinction in this respect between the situation of a drawer and an indorser⁴.

¹ Rouse v. Redwood, 1 Esp. Rep. 155.

² Goodall v. Dolley, 1 T. R. 714. ante, 307.

³ Cuming v. French, 2 Campb. 106.

⁴ Borradaile v. Lowe, 4 Taunt. 93. and see Shepherd, Serjeant's, argument, id. 96, 7. The defendant who was an indorser, wrote the following letter, in answer to one from the then holder:—

" Sir,

" I cannot think of remitting until I receive the draft, therefore if you think proper, you may return it to Trevor and Co. Whitchurch Old Bank, if you consider me unsafe.

28th January, 1811.

" To Mr. John Wilkins. Signed J. LOWE, Whitchurch."

This letter was held not to amount to a waiver of the laches in not giving due notice of non-payment.

Where the plaintiff relies on a statement by the indorser after the bill was due that he knew he was discharged, but that the plaintiff had behaved so well to him in money matters, that he should take no advantage of it, but would pay the money; he must, it is said, also prove a demand on the acceptor¹.

7thly. How the consequences of a neglect to give notice may be waived, or otherwise done away.

A person who has been once discharged by laches from his liability, is always discharged; and therefore where two or more parties to a bill have been so discharged, but one of them not knowing of the laches pays it, such payment is in his own wrong, and he cannot recover the money from another of such parties².



THE custom of merchants is stated to be, that if the *drawee* of a bill of exchange abscond before the day when the bill is due, the holder may protest it, in order to have better security for the payment, and should give notice to the drawer and indorsers of the absconding of the drawee³; and if the acceptor of a foreign bill become bankrupt before it is due, it seems that the holder may also in such case protest for better security⁴; but the acceptor is not on account of the bankruptcy of the *drawer*, compellable to give this security⁵. The neglect to make this protest will not affect the holder's remedy against the drawer and indorsers⁶, and its principal use appears to be, that

Sect. 4. Of protest for better security.

¹ Brown v. M'Dermot, 5 Esp. Rep. 265.

² Bayl. 142.—Roscoe v. Hardy, 12 East. 434.

³ Anonymous, Ld. Raym. 743.—Mar. 27, 111, 2.—Beawes, pl. 22. 24. 26. 27. 29.—Kyd. 139. See Bayl. 69. note c. 72, 3, 75.

The following is an extract from the code of laws at *Antwerp*, relating to bills of exchange:—"In the case of failure (*de faillité*) of the acceptor before the usage (*l'échéance*) the holder may cause it to be protested and put in force his recourse (*exercer son recours.*)"

⁴ Id. *ibid.* Ex parte Wackerbarth, 5 Ves. jun. 574.—Kyd. 139.

⁵ Beawes, pl. 22.

⁶ Beawes, pl. 23.

Sect. 4. Of protest
for better security.

by giving notice to the drawer and indorsers of the situation of the acceptor, by which it is become improbable that payment will be made, they are enabled by other means to provide for the payment of the bill when due, and thereby prevent the loss of re-exchange, &c. occasioned by the return of the bill¹. It may be collected, that though the drawer or indorsers refuse to give better security, the holder must nevertheless wait till the bill be due, before he can sue either of those parties².

Sect. 5. Of acceptance
supra protest.

ANY person may, without the consent of the drawer or indorsers, accept the bill, *supra protest*, for better security³. This security, it is said, is usually given by making another subscription under the protest, that the person who becomes new security, will be bound as principal for the payment of the sum mentioned in the bill, upon which the protest is made⁴.

When a foreign bill is protested for non-acceptance, or for better security⁵, the drawee or any other person may *accept it supra protest*, which acceptance is so called from the manner in which it is made. This description of acceptance is frequently made upon a foreign bill, for the purpose either of promoting the negotiation of the bill when the drawee's credit is suspected, or to save the reputation, and prevent the prosecution, of some of the parties, where the drawee either cannot be found, is not capable of making a contract, or refuses to accept; and such acceptance is called an acceptance for the *honour* of the person on whose behalf it is made, and it enures to the benefit

¹ Beawes, pl. 24.

² Beawes, pl. 26.

³ Ex parte Wackerbarth, 5 Ves. jun. 574. et infra. See the observations on acceptances *supra protest* in Hoare v. Cazenove, 16 East. 391.

⁴ Com. Dig. Merchant, F. 8. cites Mar. 28.

⁵ Ex parte Wackerbarth, 5 Ves. jun. 574.—Bayl. 74.

of all who become parties subsequently to that person¹. Sect. 5. Of acceptance *supra protest*.

The *drawee*, though he may not choose to accept on account of him in whose favour he is advised the bill is drawn, may nevertheless accept for the account and honour of the drawer, or in case he do not choose to accept on account of the drawer, he may accept for the honour of the indorser; in which latter case he should immediately send the protest on which he made the acceptance to the indorser². It is said, that if the holder be dissatisfied with the acceptance *supra protest*, and insist on a simple acceptance, and protest the bill for want of it, the acceptor should renounce the acceptance he had made, and should insist that it be cancelled³. 1st. By whom made.

When the drawee will not accept the bill, *any other person* may, after refusal by him⁴, and after protest, accept it for the honour of the bill, or of the drawer⁵, or of any particular indorser⁶; and even a bill previously accepted *supra protest*, may be accepted by another person *supra protest*, in honour of some particular person⁷. No one, however, should accept a bill under protest for non-acceptance for the honour of the drawer, before he has ascertained from the drawee his reason for suffering the bill to be protested; but if the acceptance be in honour of the indorser, such inquiry is unnecessary⁸.

It is said, that the holder of a bill must receive an acceptance *supra protest*, if offered by a responsible person, it being of no importance to him, whether it

¹ *Hussey v. Jacob*, *Ld. Raym.* 88.—*Lewin v. Brunetti*, *Lutw.* 899. *Beawes*, pl. 34.—*Poth.* pl. 112, 13, 14.—*Bayl.* 45.

² *Beawes*, pl. 33, 4. see ante, 289.

³ *Beawes*, pl. 37.

⁴ *Id.* pl. 38.—*Hussey v. Jacob*, *Ld. Raym.* 88.

⁵ *Mar.* 125, 6, 7, 8.—*Lewin v. Brunetti*, *Lutw.* 896. 899.—*Carth.* 129. *S. C.* observed upon in *Hoare v. Cazenove*, 16 *East.* 391.

⁶ *Beawes*, pl. 38. 42.—*Jackson v. Hudson*, 2 *Campb.* 448.

⁷ *Beawes*, pl. 42.

⁸ *Beawes*, pl. 46.

Sect. 5. Of acceptance *supra protest*.

be accepted simply, or under a protest, as the acceptor pays the charges, unless he had orders from the remitter not to admit of such an acceptance¹. But this dictum seems to be erroneous, for it has been adjudged that the holder need not acquiesce in any case². There cannot be a series of acceptors of the same bill; it must either be accepted by the drawee, or failing him, by some one for the honour of the drawer³.

2dly. Of the mode of accepting *supra protest*.

The *method of accepting supra protest* is said to be as follows: the acceptor must personally appear before a notary public with witnesses, and declare that he accepts such protested bill in honour of the drawer or indorser, and that he will satisfy the same at the appointed time; and then he must subscribe the bill with his own hand, thus—"accepted *supra protest*, in honour of *J. B.*⁴," or, as is more usual, "accepts *S. P.*" A general acceptance *supra protest* is considered as made for the honour of the drawer, unless otherwise expressed. Such acceptance, however, may be so worded, that though it be intended for the honour of the drawer, yet it may equally bind the indorser; but in this case, notice of such acceptance must be sent to the latter⁵. The holder should always take care to have the bill protested for non-acceptance before the acceptance for honour is made, as otherwise, it is said, the drawer might allege that he did not draw on the person making the acceptance⁶.

3dly. Of the liability of the acceptor *supra protest*.

An acceptance *supra protest* is as *obligatory* on the acceptor, as if no protest had intervened, it being immaterial to the holder of a bill, on whose account

¹ Beawes, pl. 27, 36.

² Mitford v. Walcot, 12 Mod. 410.—Ld. Raym. 575. S. C. et vide Beawes, pl. 37.—Gregory v. Walcot, Com. 76.—Pillans v. Mierop, 3 Burr. 1672, 4.

³ Jackson v. Hudson, 2 Campb. 447.—Ante, 216.

⁴ Beawes, pl. 38.

⁵ Beawes, pl. 39.

⁶ Marius, 58. 125, 6, 7.

it is accepted¹. If the acceptance were for the honour of the bill, or of the drawer, the acceptor is liable to all the indorsees, as well as the holder: if in honour of a particular indorser, then to all subsequent indorsees. The acceptance *supra protest*, however, is only a conditional engagement, and to render such acceptor absolutely liable, the bill must be duly presented for payment to the drawee, and protested in case of refusal².

Sect. 5. Of acceptance *supra protest*.

A person accepting a bill *supra protest*, either for the honour of a drawer or of an indorser, although without his order or knowledge, has, as it is said, his redress and remedy against such person, and to all other persons who are liable to that person, who must indemnify him from any damage he may have sustained, the same as if he had acted entirely by his direction³. He who accepts a bill in honour of the

4thly. Of the right of such acceptor.

¹ Beawes, pl. 35. 45. — *Mutford v. Walcot*, Lord Raym. 575. — 12 Mod. 410. S. C. — *Gregory v. Walcot*, Com. 76. — *Pillans v. Mierop*, Burr. 1672. 4. — Bayl. 42. n. b.

² *Hoare and another v. Cazenove and another*, 16 East. 391. This was an action on a set of foreign bills of exchange drawn at Hambro', on Penn and Hanbury in London, at one hundred and thirty days after date; the bills were presented to Messrs. P. and H. for acceptance, and refused, and protest duly made for non-acceptance; the bills were afterwards accepted by the defendant under protest for the honour of the first indorsers. When the bill became due, it was not presented to the drawees for payment, nor protested for non-payment. The defendants refused to pay the bill, in consequence of orders from the first indorsers. At the trial the plaintiff had a verdict subject to the opinion of the court on the above case; and after two arguments, and time taken to consider, the court were of opinion, that a presentment to the original drawees for payment, and a protest for non-payment by them, was essential, as a previous requisite to maintaining an action against an acceptor, for the honour of a first indorser, and ordered the *postea* to the defendants. Lord Ellenborough said, "the reason of the thing, as well as the strict law of the case, seems to render a second resort to the drawee proper, when the unaccepted bill still remains with the holder, for effects often reach the drawee, who has refused acceptance in the first instance, out of which the bill may and would be satisfied, if presented to him again, when the period of payment had arrived; and the drawer is entitled to the chance of the benefit to arise from such second demand, or, at any rate, to the benefit of that evidence which the protest affords; that the demand has been made duly without effect, as far as such evidence may be available to him for purposes of ulterior resort."

³ Beawes, pl. 47. — *Smith v. Nissen*, 1 T. R. 269. — Bayl. 73, 4. — *et vide post*, of payment *supra protest*.

Sect. 5. Of acceptance *supra protest*.

drawer only, has no remedy against any of the indorsers, because he accepts merely on the behalf of the drawer; but the acceptor for the honour of the drawer of a bill already accepted by the drawee, but protested by the holder for better security, may, when he has paid the bill, sue the drawer or drawee, though in the case of a bankruptcy of these parties, if the first acceptance were for the accommodation of the drawer, a court of equity will compel the acceptor *supra protest* first to resort to the drawer's estate.

An acceptor for the honour of an indorser, has no claim upon any party to the bill subsequent to him for whose honour he accepted; but the indorser, for whose honour he accepted, and all the prior parties, the drawer included, are obliged to make satisfaction to the acceptor².

¹ Ex parte Wackerbarth, 5 Ves. jun. 574. The acceptor of a bill having become bankrupt, and the holders having protested it for better security, Christian and Bowen accepted it for the honour of the drawers, and having paid it, now claimed to be entitled to dividends under the bankrupt's estate. The Chancellor said, he had spoken to persons in trade upon the subject, and the result was, that the person accepting for the honour of the drawer, had a right to come upon the acceptor. He said, however, that the justice of the case required, that they should go in the first place against the drawer, if the acceptor had no effects, and directed an enquiry to be made, whether the original acceptor, or Christian and Bowen, had effect of the drawer's in hand.

² Beawes, pl. 49. 35. 44. — Poth. pl. 113. — Molloy, B. 2. c. 10. s. 24.

CHAPTER VI.

OF PRESENTMENT OF A BILL, &c. FOR PAYMENT—OF
PAYMENT—OF THE CONDUCT WHICH THE HOLDER
MUST PURSUE ON NON-PAYMENT; AND OF PAY-
MENT SUPRA PROTEST.

IT would be extremely prejudicial to commerce, if the holder of a bill or note, were suffered to give longer credit to the drawee than the instrument directs, and afterwards, in default of payment by the drawee, to resort to the drawer or indorsers, at a time when perhaps the accounts between them and the persons liable to them may have been adjusted, or those persons may have become insolvent¹; and the common law detests negligence and laches². On this principle, it is settled, that the holder of a bill must present it to the drawee for payment at the time when due, when a time of payment is specified; and when no time is expressed, within a reasonable period after receipt of the bill;³ and that if he neglect to do so, he shall not afterwards resort to the drawer or indorsers, whose implied contracts are only to pay in default of the drawee, and not immediate or absolute, and who are always presumed to have sustained damage by the holder's laches⁴. An acceptor supra protest, we have seen, is also within this rule⁵; and if a bill be accepted, or note made payable a certain time after sight, a presentment is obviously essential, in order to complete the right to payment⁶. And whenever it is incumbent on the holder to present a bill or note for payment at a

Sect. 1.—Of *presentment* for payment; and
1st. When *presentment* is *necessary*.

¹ Allen v. Dockwra, 1 Salk. 127.—Collins v. Butler, Stra. 1087. — Bul. Ni. Pri. 470.—2 Bla. Com. 470.

² Per curiam, in Chamberlyn v. Delarive, 2 Wils. 354.

³ Poth. pl. 129.—Cowley v. Dunlop, 7 T. R. 581, 2.

⁴ Heylyn v. Adamson, 2 Burr. 669.—Cowley v. Dunlop, 7 T. R. 581, 2. acc.—Cooper v. Le Blanc, Rep. Temp. Hardw. 295. *semb. contra*.

⁵ Ante, 313.

⁶ Holmes v. Kerrison, 2 Taunt. 323.

1st. When presentment is necessary.

precise time, and he neglects to do so, he will lose his remedy, as well on the bill as upon the consideration debt, in respect of which it was given or transferred. It appears that a distinction was formerly taken between a bill of exchange given in payment of a precedent debt, and one given for a debt contracted at the time the bill was given¹: in the latter case, it was always holden, that the person who received it must have used due diligence to obtain the money from the drawee, and that in default of his so doing, he could not support any action against the party from whom he received it; but in the former case, the bill was not considered as payment, unless the money were actually paid by the drawee, although the holder might have neglected to present it for payment or to give notice of non-payment; and the holder, though he could not sue on the bill, might maintain an action for the consideration on which it was given². This distinction, founded, it is presumed, on the principle that a bill, delivered in consideration of a precedent debt, could only be understood as a collateral security, which the assignee might waive, does not any longer exist³.

It has been holden that even the bankruptcy,⁴ insolvency⁵, or death of the acceptor of a bill, or maker of

¹ Ante, 185.

² Clerk v. Mundall, 12 Mod. 203.—1 Salk. 124. S. C.—Anonymous, 12 Mod. 408.—Anonymous, Holt, 299.—Trials per Pais, 499.—Kyd. 171.

³ Ante, 125, 185.—Bul. Ni. Pri. 182.—Smith v. Wilson, Andr. 187: It seems to be the opinion of a modern writer on bills (Kyd. 172.) that the statute 3 & 4 Anne, c. 9. s. 7. put an end to this distinction; but with deference it is submitted that the clause referred to in support of that opinion, relates only to *such* bills as are alluded to in the 4th section of the act, namely, bills made payable after date, and expressed to have been given for value received; and the 7th clause also only takes away the accumulative remedy given by the statute 9 & 10 Will. 3. c. 17. and 3 & 4 Anne, c. 9. It is therefore probable that this alteration is rather to be ascribed to the change of opinion in our courts of justice.

⁴ Russel v. Langstaffe, Dougl. 515. Per Lord Mansfield, because many means may remain of obtaining payment by the assistance of friends or otherwise. Per Lord Ellenborough, in Warrington v. Furber, 8 East. 245.—Ante, 271, 2.—Bayl. 115.

⁵ Per Lord Ellenborough, in Esdaile v. Sowerby, 11 East. 117.

a note, however notorious, will not excuse the neglect to make due presentment; and in the last case it should be made to his personal representative, and in case there be no executor or administrator, then at the house of the deceased¹, or the drawer or indorsers will be discharged. If the maker of a note has shut up his house, it will not suffice merely to present it there, for the holder ought to inquire after him, and endeavour to find him out². At all events, although the drawee of a bill, or maker of a note, being bankers, may have shut up and abandoned their shop, yet a presentment there, or to them in person, must be made, and it will not suffice to allege in a declaration, that they became insolvent, and ceased and wholly declined and refused to pay at their bank any notes then payable³.

1st. When presentment is necessary.

Ante, 271, 2.—*Bowes v. Howe*, 5 Taunt. 30.—16 East. 115. S. C.—Bayl. 115.

¹ Molloy, b. 2. c. 10. s. 34. If a bill be accepted and the party dies, yet there must be a demand made on his executors or administrators, and in default of payment, a protest must be made. See also Bayl. 95, and ante, 273, 4.

² *Collins v. Butler*, 2 Stra. 1087.—Bayl. 95.—Ante, 213; but see *Goldsmith v. Bland, & Crosse v. Smith*, 1 M. & S. 545.—Ante, 276, 7.

³ *Howe v. Bowes and others*, 16 East. 112.—1 M. & S. 555.—Judgment of K. B. reversed on error in Exchequer Chamber, 5 Taunt. 30. The plaintiff declared as holder of a promissory note, made by the defendants on the 2d January, 1809, at Workington Bank, that is, at Penrith, in the county of Cumberland, whereby the defendants then and there promised on demand, to pay to one R. W. or bearer there, that is to say, at Workington Bank aforesaid, five guineas, value received. The declaration afterward averred, that after the making of the note, the defendants became insolvent, and then and from thenceforth until and at the time of exhibiting of the bill aforesaid, ceased and wholly declined and refused to pay at the Workington Bank aforesaid, the sum or sums of money specified in any note or notes issued by them from such bank, to wit, at Penrith aforesaid, &c. Lord Ellenborough, C. J. observed that the mere allegation of insolvency, as an excuse for not presenting the notes for payment at the place, would be impertinent; but in this case, the allegation, the truth of which as reported by the learned Judge, was left to the jury, and found by them, went further, that the defendants had ceased and wholly declined and refused payment of any of their notes at the place; how then can the question arise? the shutting up of the house might be considered as a refusal to pay the notes there; and as it is not disputed that the banking shop was shut up, and that any demand of payment which could have been made there, would have been wholly inaudible, that is substantially a refusal to pay their notes to all the world. Afterwards upon a writ of error in the Exchequer Chamber,

1st. When presentment is necessary.

If the holder of a bill at the time it becomes due, be dead, it is said that his executor, although he have not proved the will, must present it to the drawee¹. If the drawee goes abroad, leaving an agent in England, with power to accept bills, who accepts one for him, the bill when due, must be presented to the agent for payment, if the drawee continue absent². When a bill, transferable only by indorsement, is delivered to a person without being indorsed, he should nevertheless present the bill for payment to the acceptor, and offer an indemnity to him; and if the acceptor then refuse to pay, the bill should be protested for non-payment³. It has been holden, that if a draft be given, which ought to be, but is not, stamped, it is not necessary to present it for payment⁴; but the insufficiency of the bill in other respects will constitute no excuse for the non presentment⁵.

The neglect to make a proper presentment may, however, as far as respects the *drawer's* liability, be excused by the drawee's not having had effects of the drawer in his hands from the time of drawing the bill to the time when it became due⁶; and where a bill

the judgment of the K. B. was over-ruled, and Macdonald, C. B. said, "this is extremely simple, it depends entirely on the force and effect of an allegation in the declaration, which, it is said, dispenses with the necessity of presenting the notes in question. It is clear that a demand at the place is necessary, unless it is dispensed with. The question then is, whether this allegation that the plaintiffs in error ceased and wholly declined and refused to pay at the Workington bank, any notes issued by them from such bank, carries the matter further than a mere allegation of insolvency; and as it is not alledged that this declaration, they would pay none of their notes, was made to the plaintiff below, it is merely this, that they generally declared, they neither could or would pay any of their notes; this allegation does not appear to the judges to be sufficient to enable the plaintiff below to maintain his action, therefore judgment must be for the plaintiffs in error.

¹ Poth. pl. 146.—Molloy, b. 2. c. 10. pl. 24.—Mar. 134, 135.

² Phillips v. Astling, 2 Taunt. 206.

³ Supra, note 1.

⁴ Ante, 75.—Wilson v. Vysar, 4 Taunt. 288.—Ruff v. Webb, 1 Esp. Rep. 129. acc.—sed vide Swears v. Wells, id. 317, and Chamberlyn v. Delarive, 2 Wils. 353. The reason is that the unstamped instrument cannot be given in evidence.

⁵ Chamberlyn v. Delarive, 2 Wils. 353. see quære.

⁶ Ante, 258.

drawn on Leghorn was not presented in due time, owing to the political state of the country at that time, which rendered it impossible to present it, it was holden, that it being afterwards presented for payment as soon as practicable, and refused, the holder might recover, and evidence of this impossibility of presenting the bill at the time of maturity might be given, under the usual averment that the bill was duly presented ¹.

1st. When presentation is necessary.

And if a bill be taken under an extent, before it is due, and the party holding it on behalf of the Crown neglect to present it for payment in due time, the drawer and indorsers will continue liable, because no laches are imputable to the crown ².

So the consequences of the neglect to present may be *waived* by a payment of part ³, or a promise to pay after full notice of the default ⁴, and indeed by the same circumstances, which will do away the effect of a neglect to present for acceptance, or to give notice of the refusal ⁵.

But the circumstance of the drawer having notice before the bill is due, that it will probably not be paid, and promising the holder that he will endeavour to provide effects, and see him again, will not excuse the neglect to present the bill for payment to the drawee on the day the bill is due ⁶.

¹ *Patience v. Townly*, 2 Smith's Rep. 223, 4.—Ante, 212.

² West on Extents, 1st ed. 29; 30.

³ *Vaughan v. Fuller*, Stra. 1246.—Ante, 302.

⁴ Ante, 302 to 309.—*Hopes v. Alder*, 6 East. 16.

⁵ Ante, 301 to 309.

⁶ *Prideaux v. Collier*, 2 Starkie, 57. This was an action by the plaintiff as the indorsee of a bill of exchange, dated March 20th, 1816, drawn by the defendant upon Wood and Co. payable to his own order, and indorsed by him to the plaintiff. Upon the 22d of May, the day before the bill became due, application was made by the plaintiff to Wood and Co. and the answer was, that Collier had no effects in their hands; but the clerk of Wood and Co. remarked that the bill would not be due until the next day, and that it was probable that Collier would be in before that time, and provide effects. On the next day, the 23d, when the bill became due, the defendant said to the plaintiff, that he understood that he the plaintiff was the holder of the bill, which he hoped would be paid; that he

1st. When presentment is necessary.

We have next to consider in what cases the *acceptor* of a bill, or *maker* of a note, may resist an action on account of a neglect of the holder to present the instrument for payment. It is a general rule of law, that where there is a precedent debt or duty, the creditor need not allege or prove any demand of payment before the action brought, it being the duty of the debtor to find out his creditor, and tender him the money, and, as it is technically said, the bringing of the action is a sufficient request¹.

It might not perhaps be unreasonable, if the law required presentment to the acceptor of a bill, or maker of a note, before an action be commenced against him, because otherwise he might, on account of the negotiable quality of the instrument, and the consequent difficulty to find out the holder of it on the day of payment, in order to make a tender to him, be subjected to an action without any default whatever: and the engagement of the acceptor of a bill, or maker of a note, is to pay the money when due to the holder, who shall for that purpose make presentment².

It is, however, a settled rule of law, that when no particular place is named, in a bill or note, for payment, the acceptor or maker of the note cannot resist an action on account of neglect to present the instrument at the precise time when due, or of an indulgence to any of the other parties³. And on the

would see what he could do, and would endeavour to provide effects, and would see him again. The bill was not presented to the drawees on the 23d, but was presented on the 24th. Lord Ellenborough held, that this did not supersede the necessity of a presentment on the day. See *Phipion v. Kneller*, 4 Campb. 285, ante, 297.

¹ *Birks v. Trippet*, 1 Saund. 33.—*Carter v. Ring*, 3 Campb. 459.—*Capp v. Lancaster*, Cro. Eliz. 548.—Co. Litt. 210 b. note 1.—Com. Dig. Condition, G. 9.

² See the argument in *Wegersloff v. Keene*, 1 Stra. 222.—*Callaghan v. Aylett*, 2 Campb. 549.—*Lancashire v. Killingworth*, Ld. Raym. 687. Salk. 623.—12 Mod. 530.—Com. Dig. Condition, G. 9.

³ *Dingwall v. Dunster*, Dougl. 247.—*Anderson v. Cleland*, 1 Esp. N. P. 47.

Anderson v. Cleland, Sittings Easter, 1779. MS. 1 Esp. N. P. 47. The indorsee of a bill of exchange brought an action against the

above-mentioned principle, that an action is of itself a sufficient demand of payment, it is settled, that the acceptor or maker of a note payable generally, and not at a particular place, cannot set up as a defence, the want of a presentment to him even before the commencement of the action, and although the instrument be payable on demand¹.

1st. When presentment is necessary.

There has been much discussion and difference of opinion in the courts upon the effect of a direction upon the bill or note, that the same shall be payable at a particular place, and whether the acceptor of the bill, or maker of the note, can resist an action on account of that direction not having been complied with. Both the courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas agree, that where a particular place of payment is introduced in the body of a bill or note, and not as a mere memorandum at the foot of the instrument, whether the action be against the drawer or acceptor of the bill, or the maker or indorser of the note, the instrument must be presented at that particular place, and a demand be made there, in order to give the holder a cause of action². And that in such case, at

acceptor, and it appeared that there was no demand of payment until three months after the bill became due, and the drawer was then insolvent; it was ruled by Lord Mansfield, that this was no defence, for the acceptor of a bill of exchange, or maker of a promissory note, remains always liable; acceptance is proof of having effects in his hands, and he ought never to part with them, unless it appears that the drawer had provided another fund by paying the bill himself.

¹ *Rumball v. Ball*, 10 Mod. 38.—*Frampton v. Coulson*, 1 Wils. 33. *Capp v. Lancaster*, Cro. Eliz. 548.—*Prac. Reg.* 538.—*Reynolds v. Davies*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 625.

² *Sanderson v. Bowes*, 14 East. 500.—*Dickenson v. Bowes*, 16 East. 110.—*Roche v. Campbell*, 3 Campb. 247.—*Trecothick v. Edwin*, 1 Stark. 468. but see *Nicholls v. Bowes*, 2 Campb. 498.

Sanderson v. Bowes and others, 14 East. 500. A promissory note of the defendant's promising in the body of it, to pay so much at their banking-house at Workington, in Cumberland requires a demand of payment there, in order to give the holder a cause of action if it be not paid. *Per* Lord Ellenborough, C. J. This is a duty created by the instrument itself, with certain limits and qualifications: the duty did not arise anterior to the instrument. This case is very materially different from that of *Fenton v. Goundry*, (13 East. 459.) lately decided by this court, which was the case of a bill drawn generally, but accepted payable at a particular place, which special acceptance we considered merely as importing the intention of the

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least as respects a promissory note, the presentment and demand must be alleged in the declaration¹. And if the stipulation at the bottom of a note, for payment at a particular place, be *printed* before the note is complete, it has been holden in the King's Bench, that in such case, a presentment there is necessary². So if the body of the bill, or the address at

party, that he would be found when the bill became due, at that place, as his house of business, where he should be prepared to pay it; there the acceptance payable at the place, was no part of the original conformation of the bill itself; but here the words restrictive of payment at the place named, are incorporated in the original form of the instrument, which alone creates the contract and duty of the party. This action upon the note will not lie, unless the plaintiff has demanded payment at the appointed place; and I cannot but say that it is very convenient that such a condition should be incorporated in the note itself; for it would be very inconvenient, that the makers of notes of this description should be liable to answer them every where, when it is notorious that they have made provision for them at a particular place, where only they engage to pay them; then if the request at the place be a condition precedent, it should have been averred, and for want of such an averment, the declaration is bad; but I still think this is distinguishable from the case of *Fenton v. Goundry*.

Dickenson v. Bowes and others, 16 East. 110. Payment of a promissory note made payable at a certain place named in it, must be demanded there before the makers can be sued on it. Lord Ellenborough, C. J. said, that it had already been decided upon demurrer, that if the particular place of payment be embodied in the note, it was part of the condition on which it was made payable; that it should be presented for payment at that place. See also *Howe v. Bowes*, 16 East. 112. and 5 Taunt. 130. S. P.

Bowes v. Howe, 5 Taunt. 30. — Error in Exchequer Chamber from King's Bench, (16 East. 112.) A note, promising in the body of it, to pay, on demand, at a particular place, must be presented, and a demand of payment made at that place, unless the makers discharge the holder from the presentment and demand; and the presentment and demand must be alleged, unless a discharge is shewn.

¹ Same cases and *Roche v. Campbell*, 3 Campb. 247. Indorsee against indorser of a promissory note, describing the note as payable generally, but in the body it was made payable at a particular place. *Per* Lord Ellenborough. I think there is a fatal variance between them; the declaration represents the promissory note as containing an absolute and unqualified promise to pay the money; but by the instrument produced, the maker only promises to pay, upon the specific condition that the payment is demanded at a particular place. We have lately held, that where the place of payment is mentioned in the body of the note, it forms a material part of the instrument. There seems to be no doubt, therefore, that it should be set out in the declaration. Plaintiff nonsuited.

² *Trecothick v. Edwin*, 1 Stark. 468. The whole of a promissory note being printed, except the names, dates, and sum, and a place of payment inserted at the bottom of the note being also printed, it was

the foot of it, contains a request to the drawee to pay the bill in London, an acceptance, payable at a particular place in the Metropolis, requires a presentment there'. But still it is said, that there is no necessity to allege or prove notice of the dishonour

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held, that as special presentment there is necessary. This was an action on a promissory note made by the defendant. The note was in the usual form, "I promise to pay, &c. at Barclay, Tritton, and Co." The whole of the note was printed, except the names of the parties, the sum, and the date; the words "at Barclay, Tritton, and Co." were at the bottom of the note, and were also printed. It was contended for the defendant, that since the note was made payable at a particular place specified in printed characters, it was incumbent on the plaintiff to prove a special presentment. Lord Ellenborough held, that it was necessary to prove a special presentment, since the stipulation for payment at a particular place, being printed, was to be considered as a part of the note, having been made at the same time. A special presentment was afterwards proved. Verdict for the plaintiff.

Garnett v. Woodcock and others, 1 Stark. 475. A bill is drawn, payable in London, and is accepted payable at a particular banker's in London (semble), a presentment at that banker's must be proved in an action against the acceptor.

Hodge v. Fillis and another, 3 Campb. 463. This was an action by the indorsee against the acceptors of a bill of exchange, drawn in the following form:—Cork, 12th April, 1813.—£2314. 15s. 11d. at two months' date of this our first of exchange, second and third of the same tenor and date, not paid, pay to our order £2314. 15s. 11d. and charge the same to account as advised.—W. & A. Maxwell.—To Messrs. Fillis and Co. Plymouth.—Payable in London. The bill was accepted by the defendants, "payable at Sir John Perring's and Co. Bankers, London." The first count of the declaration did not state that the bill was made payable at any particular place, either by the drawers or acceptors. The second count stated that it was drawn payable in London, and accepted payable at Perring's and Co.'s, and contained an averment, that when due, it was presented there for payment. The plaintiff having proved the partnership of the defendants, their hand-writing as acceptors, and the indorsement of W. & A. Maxwell, closed his case. — Giffard for the defendants contended, that upon this evidence, the plaintiff was not entitled to a verdict. He could not recover on the first count, for that did not properly describe the bill of exchange; the circumstance of the bill being made payable in London was an essential part of the original contract. The second count described the bill properly, but contained a material averment which had not been proved, viz. that the bill was presented when due at the banker's in London, where it was made payable by the acceptors; without at all considering the effect of an acceptance making the bill payable at a particular place, where it was drawn, without any mention of a place of payment, there could be no doubt, that where a particular place of payment is denoted both by the drawers and acceptors, that becomes a term of the contract between the parties, and an averment that the bill was presented for payment there, cannot possibly be rejected as irrelevant. Lord Ellenborough expressed himself to be of this opinion.

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to the acceptor or maker¹; and provided a presentment, and request to pay at the particular place, be averred in the declaration, with the general refusal to pay at the end of the declaration, that is sufficient without alleging a special refusal at the particular place².

¹ *Pearce v. Pembertley and others*, 3 Campb. 261. In an action against the maker of a promissory note, payable at a banking-house, it is not necessary to prove that he had notice of its dishonour. This was an action against the makers of a promissory note, "payable at Vere, Bruce, and Co.'s," being presented there for payment when due, the answer was, "not sufficient effects." The only point made for the defendant was, that they were entitled to notice of its dishonour; the place where it was made payable being, according to recent decisions, a material part of the instrument; it exactly resembled a bill of exchange, the bankers standing in the place of the drawees. Had it been a bill of exchange, the defendants were clearly entitled to notice, for they had some effects in the hands of Vere, Bruce, and Co. and there was the same reason for their receiving notice, although the form of the instrument was different. They might suppose that the bankers would pay the note; and they ought, as early as possible, to have had information that it would be necessary for them to provide for it themselves, and that their balance at the banking-house remained unappropriated. The necessity of notice to the maker of a promissory note of its dishonour, results from the determination, that his liability does not attach, till payment has been demanded at the place where it is expressed to be payable. But Lord Ellenborough clearly held, that notice was unnecessary; and the plaintiff had a verdict.

² *Butterworth v. Lord Le Despencer*, 3 M. & S. 150.—*Benson v. White*, 4 Dowe's Rep. 334. S. P. Declaration against the maker of a promissory note payable at a particular place, and avers a presentment at the place, and that the defendant *licet sapius requisitus* hath hitherto refused, and still doth refuse to pay. Held well upon demurrer, and that a refusal at the particular place need not be averred. Lord Ellenborough, C. J. said, a presentment of the note at the house was a request there to pay the note, and the non-payment of it is a refusal at the house; if it were necessary that there should be a specific refusal in a given form, or by some positive act, it might be argued, that this general refusal would not be good, but a refusal need not be by an affirmative act; the not paying, which is only a negative act, or shutting the door, is a refusal; all therefore that is necessary is, that there should be a special request, and here a special request is averred. In *Saunderson v. Bowes*, we held, that we could not infer a special presentment from the allegation of a general refusal; all we say here is, that negation of payment every where is a negation of payment at the place. Dampier, J. The question is, whether the general averment at the end of the declaration does not in effect allege, that the defendant did not pay the note at the place where it was made payable. Presentment at the house must be averred; but it has never been decided that a special refusal must appear upon the record, and to determine that it must, would be to impose a grievous burthen on the plaintiff. Judgment for the plaintiff.

On the other hand both the courts agree, that if a promissory note be payable generally in the body of it, and there is a memorandum only *at the foot* denoting that payment shall be made at a particular place, such memorandum does not qualify the contract, and it is not necessary for the holder to allege or prove any presentment at the particular place, and if it be

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Saunderson v. Judge, 2 Hen. Bla. 509. Bayl. 96. A note made payable at the foot of it, at the plaintiff's banking house, was indorsed to them, and when it became due the maker having no effects in their hands, they wrote to one of the indorsers to say it was not honoured, and afterwards brought an action against him, but it appearing that they had made no demand on the maker, they were nonsuited. On shewing cause however, against a rule for a new trial, the court held, *that it was no part of the contract in this case that the note should be paid at the house of Saunderson and Co.*; and therefore that was not necessary to be stated in the declaration, and that it was sufficient to present the note where the maker made it payable, and as the persons at whose house it was made payable were themselves the holders it was sufficient for them to refer to their books and see whether they had effects in hands, and a new trial was granted.

Wild v. Rennard, 1 Campb. 425, note. In this case Bayley, J. held, that if a promissory note be made payable at a particular place, there is no necessity for proving, in an action against the maker, that it has been presented there for payment. And upon this case being cited in *Saunderson v. Bowes*, 14 East. 500. Bayley, J. said, that as far as he could recollect, the place was not incorporated with the body of the note; it was only mentioned, in a memorandum, at the bottom. And in *Callaghan v. Aylett*, 2 Campb. N. P. C. 551, and *Saunderson v. Judge*, 2 Hen. Bla. 509. the same distinction is taken.

In *Price v. Mitchell*, 4 Campb. 200. Gibbs, C. J. ruled accordingly; he said, I am of opinion that the words at the foot of this promissory note are only a memorandum where payment may be demanded; had they been inserted in the body of the note they certainly would have formed a part of the contract and evidence of a presentment for payment at Vere's, Smart and Co.'s would have been necessary to charge the defendant. I find this distinction taken in Bayley on Bills, last edition, p. 96. If a note be made payable at a particular place, and that place be mentioned on the body of the note, presentment for payment must be made at that place, but where the place is mentioned in the margin it does not appear that such presentment is necessary; several cases are referred to which seem to sanction the distinction. Indeed where the direction to the place of payment is mentioned in the margin or at the foot of the note (as here) the inspection and perusal of the instrument, I think, shew that this was not intended to be any condition to the absolute promise to pay contained in the body of the note. His Lordship refused to save the point, and the plaintiff had a verdict.

Richards v. Lord Milsington, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 364. in notes. This was an action by the indorsee against the maker of a promissory note. The note was in the common form; but in the margin, and underneath the name of the maker, was written, "payable at Bruce and Co.'s". The declaration did not state that the bill had been presented at Bruce and Co.'s; and no evidence of that fact was tendered

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alleged in the declaration that the defendant made the note payable at the particular place, and that direction be not on the instrument itself, but merely at the foot, this will even be a fatal misdescription of the instrument¹.

But the courts, or at least some of the judges, have differed as to the effect of an acceptance payable at a

by the plaintiff's counsel. Gibbs, C. J. the words "payable at Bruce and Co.'s" are not introduced in the body of the bill; they are only inserted in the margin. It is a mere memorandum, not coupled with or qualifying the promise. Look at this instrument; and the promissory note is perfect without it. I say nothing as to any other case, I find I had already determined this point in *Price v. Mitchell*, and I feel disposed to preserve my own consistency; it would be difficult to say in most cases, that what is law as regards bills of exchange should not be law as respects promissory notes.

¹ *Exon v. Russell*, 4 M. & S. 505. Where the indorsee declared against the maker of a promissory note, and alleged that he promised to pay, &c. and *made the same payable*, and to be paid according to the tenor and effect at the house of Messrs. B. and Co. London, and upon production of the note at the trial it appeared that the address at the house of Messrs. B. and Co. was not a part of the note, but only a memorandum at the foot of the note. Held that this was a variance. Lord Ellenborough, C. J. the plaintiff has taken upon himself to aver that such is the import of the note; he has therefore not truly stated the note, for he has stated that it was made payable at a particular place. Therefore he ought to have been nonsuited upon the ground that he has misdescribed the note as payable at particular place, which it is not, the address being no part of the contract, but a memorandum. Bayley, J. the plaintiff takes on him to aver it to be part of the note, that it is made payable at a particular place. It is a misdescription of the instrument declared upon.

But in *Pannell v. Woodroffe*, sittings after Hilary Term, 1818, at Westminster, before Abbott, J., payee against maker of a note. The declaration stated that the defendant made his promissory note bearing date, &c. by which said note the defendant three months after the date thereof, promised to pay to the said plaintiff or order the sum of £100 value received, and *made the said note payable at 32 Castle Street, Holborn*. And then and there delivered the said note to the said plaintiff, by means, &c. (stating the liability and promise to pay according to the tenor and effect of the note, but not averring any presentment for payment). The place of payment was not mentioned in the body of the note, but only by way of memorandum at the bottom; whereupon E. Lawes, on the authority of the above case of *Exon v. Russell*, contended, that the first count was open to the objection of variance, but Abbott, J. over-ruled the objection.

Lawes, in Easter term, moved for a rule for a new trial or in arrest of judgment, on the ground that the note given in evidence varied from the special statement of it in the declaration, and that that statement importing a special place of payment, the count was bad for want of an averment of presentment. But the court held that the declaration did not import any special or limited promise to pay at a particular place, and that this case was distinguishable from that of *Exon v. Russell*.

particular place, or a memorandum at the foot of the instrument, that it should be there payable. The court of King's Bench hold that such direction does not qualify the contract of the acceptor, and that consequently it is not necessary to allege or prove any compliance with such direction'. And it has

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¹ *Fenton v. Goundry*, 13 East. 459.—2 Campb. 656, 7.—Bayl. 97. Drawer against acceptor of a bill, the declaration stated that the defendant accepted the bill payable at Sykes and Co.'s and thereby became liable and promised to pay according to the tenor and effect of the bill and of his acceptance. There was no averment of a presentment for payment to Sykes and Co. nor of any demand upon the defendant other than the common allegation, that defendant "although often requested" had not paid the bill. The defendant demurred specially and assigned for cause the want of an averment of a due presentment for payment, and after argument the court (Le Blanc, J. *absente*) held that the place mentioned in the acceptance was only an intimation to the holder where the acceptor was to be found, that it formed no part of the contract that the bill should be presented there and that the acceptance, though stated to be payable at a particular place, bound the party to pay the bill generally and universally; the court, however, being desirous of looking into the case of *Callaghan v. Aylett*, which was cited, gave judgment nisi for the plaintiff, but they did not mention the case again in the course of the term, and the judgment therefore stood for the plaintiff.

Lyon v. Sundries and another, 1 Campb. 423. Indorsee against acceptor declared on generally, but it appeared in evidence that the bill was accepted payable at a particular place, objection on this account; per Lord Ellenborough. How can you make the words "at Hankey and Co.'s" more than a mere memorandum? the acceptor of a bill of exchange is liable universally. This very point was brought before the court some time ago, when the judges were all of opinion, that such words formed no part of the contract, and did not require to be set out in the declaration.

Head and another v. Sewell, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 363. In an action against the acceptor of a bill of exchange made payable at a particular place by a memorandum at the foot of the bill, it is not necessary to prove a presentment or a demand at *that* place, but the acceptor is generally and universally liable. Gibbs, C. J., after thirty-five years, in which I have never known this objection to prevail, I cannot admit the necessity of this proof in an action against the acceptor, where the bill is accepted "payable at a particular place," as in the present case it is not necessary to prove a demand at *that* place. He is *generally* and universally liable upon such acceptance; it has often been so determined. I know there are conflicting cases, but I shall not require this proof.

Huffan v. Ellis, 3 Taunt. 415. in the House of Lords, 10th April, 1810.—Bayl. 98. An averment that a bill accepted payable at a banker's was when due presented to the bankers for payment, according to the tenor and effect of the bill, and of the acceptors acceptance thereof, and that as well the bankers as the acceptors refused payment, shall be supported after judgment on a sham plea. And it shall be intended that the bill was presented for payment to the acceptor himself, at the house of those persons, *semble*. For evidence

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even been decided, that if a person accept a bill, payable at his bankers, and the holder neglect to present it, and eight months after it is due, the bankers having funds of the acceptors in their hands, become bankrupt, the acceptor is nevertheless not discharged from liability by such laches of the holder¹.

of those facts would be admissible under such an allegation, and not repugnant to it.

Rowe v. Williams, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 366. in Trinity Term, 1816. This came before the King's Bench upon a special demurrer to a declaration upon a bill of exchange. That case was precisely the same as *Fenton v. Goundry*, ante, 327. It was an action against the acceptor of a bill accepted "payable at Sir John Perring and Co.'s" and there was an averment of the presentment when it became due at Sir John Perring and Co.'s. The counsel, in support of the demurrer, cited *Gamon v. Schmoll*, (post, 330), but the court of King's Bench refused to hear the case argued; saying, that they considered the point as having been determined in their judgment in *Fenton v. Goundry*. Mr. J. Holroyd read a MS. note of the case of *Smith v. De la Fontaine*, tried before Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, in 1785; in which his lordship held, that words accompanying an acceptance "payable at a particular place," or the words "accepted payable at, &c." were not words restricting or qualifying the acceptor's liability, but rendering him generally and universally liable, and that it was not necessary to prove a demand at the particular place in an action against such acceptor. Lord Ellenborough added, "that whatever cases might be adduced in favour of or against the doctrine laid down by K. B. in *Fenton v. Goundry*, an invincible argument with him for the opinion there given was, the constant and undeviating usage of merchants; who never considered such an acceptance to be a restrictive acceptance; that it was mere matter of convenient arrangement, and did not raise any obligation on the part of the holder, to demand payment at the particular place." Upon this judgment a writ of error was brought in the House of Lords; and the case is now pending for judgment. 1 Holt, C. P. N. 366, 7.

¹ *Sebag v. Abitbol*, 4 M. & S. 462.—1 Stark. 79. S. C. A bill of exchange payable at a bankers in London, which by reason of being mislaid was not presented for payment, but the acceptor was some months afterwards informed of its being mislaid, was held not to be discharged, but that the drawer might set off in an action brought against him by the acceptor, although the bankers at whose house the bill was payable failed in the interval, and the acceptor had at all times up to the failure of the bankers a balance in their hands sufficient to cover the acceptance. Lord Ellenborough, C. J. Laches is a neglect to do something which by law a man is obliged to do, whether any neglect to call at a house where a man informs me that I may get the money amounts to laches, depends upon whether I am obliged to call there. This acceptance though it might be an authority to the bankers to pay the bill, being made payable at their house, is not in express terms an order upon them to pay, as was the case of *Bishop v. Chitty*, where the language of the acceptance was immediately that of a cheque upon the bankers. I confess I am unable to see any laches in the defendant upon either ground. The plaintiff is informed that the bill is not to be found, after which there surely was not any occasion for him to keep a fund at the house where it was

Some of the Judges of the court of Common Pleas on the contrary have held, that such a memorandum qualifies the contract of the acceptor, and that in an action against him as well as any other party, a presentment at the particular place must be alleged and proved¹.

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The different reasons in support of each side of these opinions will be found in the cases in the notes.

made payable. How can it be said that the plaintiff after notice that his bill no longer existed, was bound to keep money at his bankers to answer the bill *in perpetuum*. It seems to me that after such a notice he was at liberty to withdraw his funds, and therefore whatever loss may happen to him by keeping them there must be his loss, and not the loss of the defendant. Bayley, J., as to other points on which there has been some difference of opinion in the two courts, I shall be very ready to change my opinion if ultimately I should see occasion, but I cannot help feeling considerable difficulty upon that point. If this is to be considered as a qualified acceptance, it follows that the holder would have a right to refuse it, he being entitled to have an unconditional acceptance; and indeed, as I rather think, being bound to require it. And if he take such an acceptance as this, payable at a particular place, it may be a question whether he ought not to give notice to all the parties to the bill, and whether by omitting to do so he does not discharge them. In this view of the question it becomes an important one, and deserves to be well considered; it is true that the holder is not bound to present the bill for acceptance, but I have always understood, that if he does present it, and a qualified acceptance is given, he is bound to give notice. If then the circumstance of the bill's being accepted, payable at a bankers, is to throw on the holder the obligation to present at the particular place, the consequence will be, that any intermediate indorser who may be called on to pay, and does pay the bill, will in his action, over against another party to the bill, be saddled with the proof of an additional fact, beyond what he would have to prove if the acceptance were a general acceptance. This is a point of view which seems to me to be very important, and I rather think that it has not been presented in this view to the minds of those learned persons from whom we are said to differ. Rule absolute.

¹ Callaghan v. Aylett, C. P. 51 Geo. 3.—3 Taunt. 397.—2 Campb. 519.—Bayl. 97.—In an action against the acceptor of a bill, it appeared that the bill was accepted, payable at Messrs. Ramsbottoms, bankers, London; and two objections were taken to the plaintiff's right to recover; first, that there was a variance between the acceptance proved, which was a special one, and that averred in the declaration, which was a general one; and secondly, that there was no proof of a presentment for payment at the place where the bill by acceptance had been made payable; a verdict was found for the plaintiff, subject to the opinion of the court upon these points, which were reserved; a rule nisi to set aside this verdict and enter nonsuit was obtained; and after cause shewn, the court (Mansfield, C. J. absent) held that a place where a bill is made payable must be considered as part of the contract between the acceptor and the holder. That this was a special and qualified acceptance, binding the acceptor to pay at Ramsbottoms, and not universally. They said it seemed fair, that when a party had provided funds at his bankers for the due satisfaction of a bill, he should be allowed to protect himself

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It has been observed that the acceptance of a bill seems to be as much the original contract of the ac-

from the risk of being arrested upon it by a malicious creditor. They referred to *Parker v. Gordon*, 7 East. 385. and said it could make no difference (for this purpose) whether the action were against the drawer or acceptor. Rule absolute.

Gammon and another v. Schmoll, 5 Taunt. 344.—1 Marsh. 80. C. P. Hil. Term, 1814. In this case it was held, that if a person to whom a bill is directed generally accepts it payable at a particular place, the holder needs not receive such a qualified acceptance, but may resort to the drawer as for non-acceptance. But that such an acceptance is equivalent to an acceptance payable at the particular place and no where else, and narrows the general liability of the acceptor to a liability to pay at that place only. And that if the holder consents to receive such an acceptance, it interposes in the contract a condition precedent, that the holder shall present the bill to the acceptor for payment at the place specified: and therefore declaring on the bill the plaintiffs must aver performance of this like other conditions precedent, by shewing a presentment to the acceptor at the place specified, and that whether the action be against the drawer or against the acceptor.—*Vaughan*, Serjeant, argued, that a simple acceptance subjects the acceptor to the largest responsibility that words can create; no presentment any where is necessary, the acceptor is bound to follow the bill and pay the holder if he is within the four seas; he can add nothing which will enlarge his obligation. There is very good reason why the restriction should prevail; suppose the acceptor possessed funds at Bath or in Paris, he is perfectly safe in giving a qualified acceptance if the necessity exists of presenting the bill there, otherwise he cannot venture the bill at all; and if while his funds are stationary he cannot prevent his liability from being ubiquitary, that doctrine will greatly circumscribe the issuing of similar bills. But it is unnecessary to consider the reason of the condition, if a condition be annexed to an acceptance, the condition must be complied with however arbitrary or absurd. The holder is not bound to receive the acceptance with new qualifications thus engrafted on it. But if he does receive the bill thus qualified he must abide by the qualifications.—*Chambre, J.*, I think the case is clear upon rules of plain common sense and understanding, without going through all the cases; a man is not bound to receive a limited and qualified acceptance, he may refuse it and resort to the drawer, but if he does receive it he must conform to the terms of it. The reason given by the court of King's Bench, in *Fenton v. Goundry*, shews that they were themselves very doubtful of the grounds of their judgment. It is there said that the meaning was only to point out where the acceptor transacts his business, few people receive an acceptance without previously knowing where the acceptor transacts his business, but if he meant only to point out where he lived, it would be sufficient to write on the bill his name and place of abode; but what is the meaning of these words "accepted payable at?" they have a meaning, they impose a condition, and the person receiving such an acceptance must comply with the condition, and in pleading must shew his compliance. It would greatly circumscribe the negotiation of bills of exchange if this were not so, for they would, instead of being of general accommodation, be restrained in their use to such persons in trade as have a fixed place of business, where clerks and servants are always in attendance to pay the bills.—*Dallas, J.*, the argument has proceeded on the foundation that the acceptor is always a debtor to the drawer, but that is by no means universally the case

ceptor, as a note is the original contract of the maker¹; and as it is admitted that the drawee may make a qualified or conditional acceptance, and thus narrow the liability which a general acceptance would create, it is difficult to say that he may not qualify his contract and liability as to the place of payment², and whether this be done in the body of the bill or by memorandum at the foot, yet if it were intended to qualify the contract it should have that operation without regard to the arrangement of the words. In practice it is the invariable course amongst bankers and merchants to present bills accepted payable at a particular place, at such place. At all events, in the present uncertainty in the law, it is advisable to present an instrument for payment according to the terms of the acceptance, and in declaring against the acceptor of a bill, or maker of a note, thus payable at a particular place, in one count to aver the presentment there, and in another count to describe the instrument as accepted payable generally³.

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If however, a party receive a bill accepted, at the foot payable at a bankers, or a particular place, it is

on the contrary the case is frequently otherwise. In one of the largest branches of our commerce, that with the West India islands, the acceptor is universally in advance. I put the question if the acceptance had contained the words (and not elsewhere) whether the acceptor would be liable any where else, and the counsel did not deny the limitation; if so, the question is, whether the words "accepted payable at," do not constitute a contract, and whether they are not equivalent to express words of exclusion; and I think they are. The party need not have received from the acceptor living at Bath a limited contract of acceptance, but he had thought fit so to do, and he must perform his condition. Judgment for the defendant. But Gibbs, C. J. appears in other cases to have decided otherwise; see note 1, 327, and *Richards v. Lord Milsington*, 1 Holt, 364, and ante, 325, note 1.

¹ Bayl. 185. p. 1.

² In *Mutford v. Walcot*, *Ld. Raym.* 575. Holt, C. J. said, "if a bill be payable at London, and the person on whom it is drawn accepts it, but names no house where he will pay it, the party that has the bill is not bound to be satisfied with this acceptance."—See also Bayley, 86. It should seem therefore that there is no objection to the holder's receiving a special acceptance stating the place of payment. But in *Head v. Sewell*, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 335. Gibbs, C. J. seems to have been of opinion that a special acceptance payable at a particular place, does not render it necessary to prove a presentment there.

³ Bayl. 185.

1st. When presentment is necessary.

incumbent upon him, in order to charge the drawer or indorsers, to present it at the appointed place in the usual banking hours, and if he present it after such hours without effect, it is no proof of dishonour of the bill, so as to charge the drawer or indorser¹.

In case of a foreign bill, where the course of exchange has altered, the acceptor will only be liable to pay according to the rate of it, when the bill became due²; and if the acceptor undertook by his acceptance to pay within a certain period after demand, he may insist on the want of presentment³. A person who has guaranteed the due payment of a bill may be released from responsibility by the neglect of the holder duly to present it for payment, if he can shew that he was thereby prejudiced⁴.

2dly. By and to whom, and where the presentment should be made.

Presentment for payment, when necessary, must be made by the holder of the bill, &c. or an agent, competent to give a legal receipt for the money⁵, to the person in general on whom it is drawn⁶; and a person in possession of a bill payable to his own order, is a holder for this purpose, though it was once thought he had only an authority to indorse⁷. It is not necessary that the demand should be personal, it being sufficient if it be made at the house of the acceptor⁸; and it is

¹ Parker v. Gordon, 7 East. 385. post, as time of day.—Ambrose v. Hopwood, 2 Taunt. 61.—2 Campb. 550.

² Poth. pl. 174.

³ The Duke of Norfolk v. Howard, 2 Show. 235.

⁴ Phillips v. Astling, 2 Taunt. 206.—Warrington v. Furber, 8 East. 242. ante, 264, 5.

⁵ Per Lord Kenyon, in Coore v. Callaway, 1 Esp. Rep. 115.

⁶ Poth. pl. 129.

⁷ ——— v. Ormston, 10 Mod. 286.—Smith v. M'Clure, 5 East. 476, et ante, 148, 9.

⁸ Brown v. M'Dermot, 5 Esp. Rep. 265, 6.—Cromwell v. Hynson, 2 Esp. Rep. 512, acc. Sed vide Duke of Norfolk v. Howard, 2 Show. 235.

Brown v. M'Dermot, 5 Esp. Rep. 265. Indorsee against indorser. it was held in this case to be sufficient to demand payment at the usual place of residence of the acceptor, and if it is not then paid it is sufficient to entitle the party to proceed against the indorser. The plaintiff's counsel called a witness, who proved that he carried the bill to the house described as the place where Smithson the acceptor lived, but that there were no orders left, and the bill was not paid, but it appeared that the witness never saw the acceptor. Garrow,

the same thing in effect, if it be made at the place appointed by him for payment¹, or in some cases of his agent who has been used to pay money for him²; and if a banker's note be made payable at Tunbridge, and also at London, the holder has a right to present it at either place, and if payment be refused at the more distant place, London, it is no defence to prove, that if payment had been demanded at the nearer place, Tunbridge, the note would have been paid³.

2dly. By and to whom, and where, the presentment should be made.

When a bill is made, or accepted, payable at a banker's, or at any particular place, or by a particular person not party to the instrument, in order to charge the drawer and indorsers, the presentment for and demand of payment should be made at such place, or on such person⁴; and in default thereof, the drawer and indorser, and other parties transferring the bill, would in general be discharged from their obligations. If such presentment be made, and payment be refused, though in general notice must be given, yet it will be unnecessary to make another presentment to the acceptor in person, for the contract and undertaking that there should be cash, and that the bill should be paid there, is broken⁵; and though the person, at whose house the instrument is made payable, may not be a party to it, and consequently not personally liable; yet an answer by him, or at his house, as to the pay-

for the defendant, objected to the evidence, and that the plaintiff should be called, first, on the ground that the promise to pay was not made to the plaintiff, the indorsee himself, which he contended to be necessary; and secondly, that the hand-writing of the acceptor should be proved, and an actual demand on him. Lord Ellenborough, in summing up, told the jury, that it was necessary to prove a demand of the bill and non-payment by him; but that if a bill was payable at a certain house it was sufficient to demand the money there: That had been done here, for it was the duty of the drawee of a bill to leave provision for the payment of it. Verdict for the plaintiff.

¹ *Saunderson v. Judge*, 2 Hen. Bla. 509.

² *The Governor and Company of the Bank of England v. Newman*, 12 Mod. 241.—*Phillips v. Astling*, 2 Taunt. 206.—*Bayl.* 95, 6.

³ *Beeching v. Gower*, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 313.

⁴ *Saunderson v. Judge*, 2 Hen. Bla. 509.—*Parker v. Gordon*, 7 East. 386. ante, 332.

⁵ *Mar.* 106.—*Saunderson v. Judge*, 2 Hen. Bla. 509.—*Parker v. Gordon*, 7 East. 385.—*Com. Dig.* tit. Merchant, F. 7.

2dly. By and to whom, and where, the presentment should be made.

ment or non-payment of it is sufficient¹. In the spirit of this rule it has been decided, that if the person at whose house the bill, &c. is made payable, be himself the holder of it, it is a sufficient demand of payment for him to inspect his books, and sufficient evidence of a refusal, to find upon such inspection, that he had no effect in his hands²; and where a bill or cheque is payable at a banker's, a presentment to their clerk at the clearing-house is sufficient³.

If the drawee have merely *removed* from the place in which the bill represents him to reside, it is incumbent on the holder to use every reasonable endeavour to find out whither he hath removed, and in case he succeed in such attempt, to present it for payment at that place⁴. But if the drawee has never lived at the place of address, or has *absconded*, that circumstance will sufficiently excuse the holder from not making any further inquiries after him⁵; and if he have left the country on any account, presentment and demand

¹ Stedman v. Gooch, 1 Esp. Rep. 4.

² Saunderson v. Judge, 2 Hen. Bla. 509.—Bayl. 96.

³ Reynolds v. Chettle, 2 Campb. 596.—Robson v. Bennett, 2 Taunt. 388.

Robson and Waugh v. Bennett and another, 2 Taunt. 388. In this case it was established, that by the practice of the London bankers, if one banker who holds a check drawn on another banker, presents it after four o'clock it is not then paid, but a mark is put on it to shew that the drawer has assets, and that it will be paid; and checks so marked have a priority, and are exchanged or paid the next day at noon, at the clearing-house; held, that a check presented after four and so marked, and carried to the clearing-house the next day, but not paid, no clerk from the drawee's house attending, need not be presented for payment at the banking-house of the drawee, and that such a marking under this practice amounts to an acceptance, payable next day at the clearing-house.

⁴ Collins v. Butler, 2 Stra. 1087.—Bayl. 95.—Bateman v. Joseph, 2 Campb. 461.—12 East. 433, S. C.

Collins v. Butler, 2 Stra. 1087. The maker of a note shut up his house before the note became due, and in an action against an indorser, the question was, whether the plaintiff had shewn sufficient in proving that the house was shut up? And Lee, C. J. thought not, but that he should have given in evidence that he enquired after the maker, or attempted to find him out.—Bayl. 95. But it seems sufficient to give or leave notice of non-payment at the house of a party. See Goldsmith v. Bland, ante, 284; and I M. & S. 545, S. P.

⁵ Anonymous, Lord Raym. 743.—Bayl. 95.

of payment of his wife, or agent, at the place where he formerly resided, would be sufficient ¹.

2dly. *By and to whom, and where, the presentment should be made.*

If at the time of presentment, the drawee be *dead*, the holder should inquire after his personal representative, and present the bill to him ²; and in case there be no representative, should demand payment at the house of the deceased ³.

It is sufficient to require payment of the person on whom the bill is drawn, and it is unnecessary, in case of default of payment, to make any demand on the drawer, previously to an action against the indorser ⁴.

The time when a bill or note, &c. ought to be presented for payment, when it is payable at a certain time after it is drawn, as in the case of a bill payable after date, or after sight, or at usance, depends on the terms of the instrument itself ⁵; and when no time of payment is expressed, as in case of bills payable at sight, or on demand, the time when presentment for payment should be made, depends on the local situation of the parties, and other circumstances, necessarily varying in every particular case. It was once thought, that the propriety of a presentment for payment with respect to the time when it should be made, was, in all cases, a question for the determination of a jury; but the decisions of juries having been found to be very much at variance from each other ⁶, and consequently to have rendered the commercial law in that respect very uncertain, and the usage of merchants having been long since established, it is now settled to

3dly. *Time when a bill, &c. should be presented for payment.*

¹ *Cromwell v. Hynson*, 2 Esp. Rep. 511.—*Phillips v. Astling*, 2 Taunt. 206. When not, see *Cheek v. Roper*, 5 Esp. Rep. 175.—Bayl. 95, 6.

² Ante, 214.—*Molloy*, b. 2. c. 10. s. 34.—*Poth.* pl. 146.—Bayl. 95.

³ *Poth.* pl. 146.—*Mar.* 134.—Bayl. 95.

⁴ *Heylyn v. Adamson*, 2 Burr. 669.—*Hamilton v. Mackrell*, Rep. Temp. Hardw. 322.

⁵ Bayl. 102, 3.

⁶ *Allen v. Dockwra*, 1 Salk. 127.—*Mainwaring v. Harrison*, Stra. 508.—*Coleman v. Sayer*, id. 829.—*Darrach v. Savage*, 1 Show. 155.—*Phillips v. Phillips*, 2 Freem. 247.—*Crawley v. Crowther*, id. 257.—*Tindall v. Brown*, 1 T. R. 168, 9.

3dly. *Time when the presentment should be made.*

be the province of the *court* to determine the time when a presentment ought to be made¹.

The circumstance of the holder having received a bill very near the time of its becoming due, constitutes no excuse for a neglect to present it for payment at maturity, for he might renounce it if he did not choose to undertake that duty, and send the bill back to the party from whom he received it; but if he keep it he is bound to use reasonable and due diligence in presenting: it and therefore where the plaintiff in Yorkshire, on the 26th of December, renewed a bill of exchange, payable in London, which became due on the 28th, and kept it in his own hands until the 29th, when he sent it by post to his bankers in Lincoln, who duly forwarded it to London for presentment, and the bill was dishonoured, it was held that the plaintiff had by his laches lost his remedy against the drawer and indorsers².

When a bill, &c. is payable at *usance*, or at a certain time *after* date or sight, or *after* demand, it is not payable at the precise time mentioned in the bill, *days of grace* being allowed³; but in the case of bills, &c. payable *on demand*, no such days are allowed.

Before we enter into a particular inquiry when bills, &c. payable at *usance* after date, after sight, after a particular event, at sight, or on demand, ought to be presented for payment, it may not be improper to make a few observations relative to *the mode of computing time* in the case of bills in general, and some remarks with respect to the *days of grace*, and as to *usances*.

When a bill is drawn at a place using one style, and payable on a day certain at a place using another, the

¹ Bayl. 103, 4, 123, ante, 290.—*Darbishire v. Parker*, 6 East. 11, 12.—*Parker v. Gordon*, 7 East. 386.—*Tindall v. Brown*, 1 T. R. 168, 9, 170.—*Brown v. Collinson*, Beawes, pl. 229.—*Brown v. Harraden*, 4 T. R. 148.—*Kyd*. 45.—*Molloy*, b. 2. c. 10. acc.—*Russell v. Langstaffe*, Dougl. 515.—*Muilman v. D'Eguino*, 2 H. B. 568, 9. contra.

² *Anderton v. Beck*, 16 East. 248.

³ *Brown v. Harraden*, 4 T. R. 141.—*Leftly v. Mills*, 4 T. R. 170.—*Poth.* pl. 14, 15.—*Mar.* 76.

time when the bill becomes due must be calculated according to the *style*¹ of the place where it is payable; because the contract created by the making a bill of exchange is understood to have been made at that place, and consequently should be construed according to the laws of it². In other works it is laid down, that upon a bill drawn at a place using one style and payable at a place using another, if the time is to be reckoned from the date it shall be computed according to the style of the place at which it was drawn, otherwise according to the style of the place where it is payable; and in the former case the date must be reduced or carried forward to the style of the place where the bill is payable, and the time reckoned from thence³. Thus on a bill dated the 1st of March old style, and payable here one month after date, the time must be computed from the 19th February new style; and on a bill dated the 19th February new style, and payable at St. Petersburg one month after date, from the 1st March old style⁴. And although in some cases it has been considered, that when computation is to be made *from* an act done, the day in which the act is done is to be included⁵, the law re-

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¹ As to the old and new style, see Kyd. on Bills, 7; &c.—All places which we, in Great Britain, are in the habit of negotiating bills, compute their time as we do, (except that Russia adheres to the old style) by years reckoned in sextiles, from the birth of our Saviour, and divided each into 12 months, and 365 (or in every fourth year 366) days.—Bayl. 112.

² Poth. pl. 155.—Beawes, pl. 251.—Mar. 102, ante, 120, 1. acc. Kyd. 8. contra.—Old style, it is said, still prevails in Muscovy, Denmark, Holstein, Hamburgh, Utrecht, Gueldres, East Friesland, Geneva, and in all the protestant principalities in Germany, and the cantons of Switzerland.—Beawes, pl. 258.—Kyd. 7, 8.—Mar. 56.—Bayl. 112; see last note.

³ Bayl. 102, 3.

⁴ Bayl. 113.

⁵ Glassington v. Rawlins, 3 East. 407.—Cramlington v. Evans, 2 Ventr. 308, 310.—Castle v. Burditt, 3 T. R. 623.—Kyd. 6; but see observations of Lord Ellenborough in Watson v. Pears, 2 Campb. 296, from which it appears that in many cases the day is to be excluded; see also Pugh v. Duke of Leeds, Cowp. 714.—Glassington v. Rawlins, 3 East. 407.—Lester v. Garland, 15 Ves. jun. 254.

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lating to bills of exchange is different; for the custom of merchants is settled that where a bill is payable at usance, or at so many days after sight, or from the date, the day of the date, or of the acceptance, must be *excluded*¹; and therefore, if a bill drawn payable ten days after sight, be presented on the 1st day of a month, the ten days expire on the 11th, and the bill by the addition of the days of grace when they are three in number, becomes due on the 14th². When a bill, &c. is drawn payable at usance, or at a certain time after date, and it is not dated, the time when it is payable must be computed from the day it issued, exclusively thereof³.

Days of grace.

The *days of grace* which are allowed to the drawee, are so called because they were formerly merely gratuitous, and not to be claimed as a *right* by the person on whom it was incumbent to pay the bill, and were dependent on the inclination of the holder; they still retain the name of grace, though the custom of merchants, recognized by law, has long reduced them to a certainty, and established a *right* in the acceptor to claim them, in all cases of bills or notes payable at usance, or after date, after sight, or after a certain event⁴. The number of these days varies according to the custom of the different countries⁵. The fol-

¹ *Bellasis v. Hester*, Lord Raym. 280.—Lutw. 1591. S. C.—*Coleman v. Sayer*, 1 Barn. B. R. 303.—Poth. pl. 13. 15.—*Campbell v. French*, 6 T. R. 212.—*Beawes*, pl. 252.—Bayl. 113.—Kyd. 6.—*Lester v. Garland*, 15 Ves. jun. 254.—acc. *May v. Cooper*, Fort. 370. contra.

² Kyd. 6, 7.

³ *Hague v. French*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 173.—*Armitt v. Brame*, Lord Raym. 1076.—Kyd. 7. ante, 77.

⁴ *Brown v. Harraden*, 4 T. R. 151, 2.—*Termes de grace*, n'est *terme de grace* que de nom, parce que c'est *humanitatis ratione* qu'elle la accorde, et pour le distinguer de celui porte par la lettre; il est réellement *terme de droit*, puisque c'est la loi qui le donne.—Poth. pl. 187. See *Coleman v. Sayer*, Barnard Rep. B. R. 303.—Vin. Ab. tit. Bills of Exchange, b. 9.—*Brown v. Harraden*, 4 T. R. 151, where it is said to have been once decided, that days of grace are not allowable on inland bills.

⁵ *Beawes*, 260. 1st ed. 449.—Bayl. 110.

Following is a list of the days of grace established by the law merchant in different countries¹. 3dly. Time when the presentment should be made.

England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Bergamo, and Vienna,	3 days.
Frankfort, out of the fair time,	4 do.
Leipsick, Naumberg, and Augsburgh,	5 do.
Venice, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Middleburgh, Antwerp,	} 6 do.
Cologne, Breslau, Nuremburg, Lisbon, and Portugal,	
Naples,	8 do.
Dantzick, Koningsburg, and France,	10 do ² .
Hamburgh and Stockholm,	12 do ³ .
Spain,	14 do.
Rome,	15 do.
Genoa,	30 do.
Leghorn and Milan, and some other places in Italy,	no fixed time.

In a late case, however, it was proved, that at Ham-
burgh the holder of a bill is not bound to present the
bill for payment until the eleventh day after the time
limited for its payment, where the eleventh is a post-
day, but that if the eleventh be not a post-day he
must present it by the next preceding post-day⁴. And
in another case it was held, that where a bill is drawn
on a person resident at a place near Hamburgh, the
holder need not present it until the eleventh day, al-
though the eleventh be not a post-day⁵.

¹ Beawes, pl. 260.—Mar. 94.—Kyd. 9.—Bayl. 110.

² Poth. pl. 139.

³ Kyd. 9.—Bayl. 110 ; but see Hamburgh ordinance, art. 16, 17,
and quære if not eleven days ; see the next cases.

⁴ Goldsmith and another v. Shee, C. P. cor. Lord Eldon, 20 Dec.
1799.—Bayl. 110. n. 1. A bill for £500, drawn on Katter at Ham-
burgh, at three usances, was dated the 25th of June, 1799 ; it was
presented for payment on the 4th of October, which was a post-day.
In an action by the indorsees against the payee, the defence was, that
the presentment was improper ; but it was proved in evidence as a
settled usage at Hamburgh, that although it is usual to pay bills on
the day they become due, the holder may, if he pleases, keep them a
certain number of days, called respite days, and that the number of
respite days is eleven, where the eleventh is a post-day ; but where the
eleventh is not a post-day, the respite days extend to the preceding
post-day only, the holder being obliged, at his peril, to protest, and
send off the protest by the eleventh day. Verdict for the plaintiffs.
But it is observed (Bayl. 111) that this is not consistent with the
Hamburgh ordinance, art. 17, in which it is stated, that the holders
may postpone the protest until the twelfth day, if it be not a Sunday
or a holiday.

⁵ Goldsmith and another v. Bland and another, C. P. cor. Lord

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should be made.

On bank post bills payable after sight, it has been said, that no days of grace are claimed¹; and whenever a bill is drawn payable to the excise, it is also said that they usually allow six days beyond the three days of grace, if required by the acceptor, on payment of one shilling to the clerk at the expiration of the six days, for his trouble; and in a case where the commissioners of excise, being the payees of such a bill, gave the drawee the above time, Lord Mansfield decided, that as this custom was a general one, engrafted on such bills, and known universally, the drawer was not discharged by the above indulgence to the drawee².

The days of grace which are allowed on a bill of exchange must always be computed according to the law of the place where it is due³. At Hamburgh, and in France the day on which the bill falls due makes one of the days of grace; but it is not so elsewhere⁴. In Great Britain, Ireland, France⁴, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Antwerp, Middleburgh, Dantzick, and Königsburg, Sundays and holidays are always included in the days of grace; but not so at Venice, Cologne, Breslau, and Nuremberg. In this country, if the third day of grace happen to be a Sunday, Christmas-

Eldon, 1st of March, 1800. A bill for £998. 9s. 9d. drawn on Trevainus, of Bremen, but payable in Hamburgh, at three months, was dated the 15th of June, 1799; it was not presented or protested until the 26th of September, which was not a post-day; another bill for £261. 7s. 2d. addressed to Voeg, in Lubeck, payable in Hamburgh at three months, was dated the 26th of June, 1799; it was not presented or protested until the 7th of October, which was not a post-day. In an action on these bills against the defendants, as indorsers, it was proved that it was optional in the holder of a bill at Hamburgh whether he would present and protest it on the post-day, before the eleventh day after the day limited for its payment, the eleventh not being a post-day; or whether he would keep it until the eleventh: and one witness proved, that where the drawee lived at Lubeck or Bremen, it was the constant usage to keep the bill until the eleventh, whether it was post-day or not, there being posts from Lubeck and Bremen to Hamburgh every day. Bayl. 111.

¹ Lovl. 247.

² Welford v. Hankin, at Guildhall, Sittings after Hilary Term, 1763, 1 Esp. N. P. 59.

³ Kyd. 8.

⁴ Beawes, pl. 260.—Selw. N. P. 4th ed. 338, n. 52.

day, or Good Friday¹, upon which no money ought to be paid, the holder ought to present for payment upon the second day of grace, and in case it be not then paid, must treat the bill as dishonoured². In other cases, a presentment before the third day of grace, being premature, would be a mere nullity³.

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Foreign bills, as has been already observed, are usually drawn payable at one, two, or more *usances*. The term *usance* is French, and signifies the time which it is the *usage* of the countries between which bills are drawn, to appoint for payment of them⁴. The length of the usance, or time which it includes, varies in different countries, from fourteen days to one, two, or even three months after the date of the bill. Double or treble usance is double or treble the usual time, and half usance is half that time: when it is necessary to divide a month upon an half usance, the division, notwithstanding the difference in the length of the month contains fifteen days⁵.

Of usances.

A usance between London ⁶ and	Amsterdam is 1 <i>calendar</i> month after date.			
	Aleppo	{ sometimes accounted as treble usance, }		do.
	Altona	is 1 <i>calendar</i> month after date.		
	Antwerp	1	do.	- do.
	Brabant	1	do.	- do.
	Bilboa	2	do.	- do.
	Bruges	1	do.	- do.
	Cadiz	2	do.	- do.
	Flanders	1	do.	- do.
	France	30 days	-	do.
	Florence	{ sometimes accounted as treble usance }		do.
	Genoa	is 3 <i>calendar</i> months after date.		
	Hamburgh	1	do.	- do.

¹ 39 & 40 Geo. 3. c. 42.

² Tassal v. Lewis, Lord Raym. 743.—Haynes v. Birks, 3 Bos. & Pul. 599.—Kyd. 9.—Bayl. 109, 110.—Mar. 95, 96.

³ Wissen v. Roberts, 1 Esp. Rep. 262.—Bayl. 112.

⁴ Poth. pl. 15.—Haynes v. Birks, 3 Bos. & Pul. 338.—Selw. N. P. 4th edit. 338, n. 50.—Bayl. 114.

⁵ Mar. 93.—Bayl. 114.

⁶ Molloy, tit. Bills of Exchange, 2d. vol. 2d. book. c. 10.—Bayl. 114.

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Usance between } Holland is 1 calendar month after date.
London and }

Leghorn	3	do.	-	do.
Lisbon	2	do.	-	do.
Lucca	sometimes 3	-	-	do.
Lisle	1	do.	-	do.
Madrid and all Spain }	2	do.	-	do.
Middleburg	1	do.	-	do.
Milan	3	do.	-	do.
Portugal	2	do.	-	do.
Paris ¹	1	do.	-	do.
Rotterdam	1	do.	-	do.
Rome	3	do.	-	do.
Roan	1	do.	-	do.
Spain	2	do.	-	do.
Venice ²	3	do.	-	do.
Zant	3	do.	-	do.
Zealand	1	do.	-	do.

Usance between Amsterdam³ and } Brabant, France, Flanders,
and Holland or Zealand, is
1 calendar month.

Usance between Amsterdam and } Italy, Spain, and Portugal, is
2 calendar months⁴.

Usance between Amsterdam and } Frankfort, Nuremburgh, Vien-
na, and other places in Ger-
many, on Hamburg and
Breslau, 14 days after sight,
2 usances 28 days, and half
usance 7 days.

These usances are calculated *exclusively* of the day of the date of the bill. At the expiration of the appointed usance the bill would be apparently due, but the custom of merchants has allowed the drawee further time, called days of grace, which are in general calculated as before mentioned, exclusively of the last day of usance; and on the last of these three days the bill should, in this country, be presented for payment.⁵

¹ Poth. 15.—Bayl. 114. acc. Molloy. 84. contra.

² Lutw. 885.—Bayl. 114.

³ Molloy. 84.—Kyd. 4, 5.

⁴ Mitford v. Walcot, 12 Mod. 410.—Bayl. 114.

⁵ Ante, 338.

When bills, &c. are payable at one, two, or more Bills payable after date, &c. when due. *months after date or sight*, the mode of computing the time when they become due, differs from the mode of computation in other cases. In general, when a deed or act of parliament mentions a *month*, it is construed to mean a *lunar* month, or twenty-eight days, unless otherwise expressed¹; but in the case of bills and notes, the rule is otherwise, and when a bill is made payable at a month or months after date, the computation must in all cases be by *calendar*, and not by lunar months; thus when a bill is dated the 1st of January, and payable at one month after date, the month expires on the 1st of February², and with the addition of the days of grace, the bill is payable on the 4th of February, unless that day be a Sunday, and then on the 3d. When one month is longer than the succeeding one, it is said to be a rule not to go, in the computation, into a third month; thus, on a bill dated the 28th, 29th, 30th, or 31st January, and payable one month after date, the time expires on the 28th of February in common years, and in the three latter cases in leap year on the 29th³. When the time is computed by days, the day on which the event happens is to be excluded⁴.

When a bill purports to be payable so many days *after sight*, the days are computed from the day the bill was accepted, exclusively thereof, and not from the date of the bill, or the day the same came to hand, or was presented for acceptance; for the *sight* must appear in a legal way, which is either by the parties accepting the bill, or by protest for non-acceptance⁵.

¹ 2 Bla. Com. 141.—Lacon v. Hooper, 6 T. R. 224.—Castle v. Burditt, 3 T. R. 623.—The King v. Adderley, Dougl. 464. As to lunar and calendar months, and how they are calculated, see Lang v. Gale, 1 M. & S. 111.—Watson v. Pears, 2 Campb. 294.—Cathcart v. Hardy, 2 M. & S. 536.

² Beawes, pl. 253.—Mar. 74, 90. 2d edit. p. 19, 24.—Bayl. 113.

³ Mar. 75.—Kyd. 6.

⁴ Bellasis v. Hester, Lord Raym. 280.—Bayl. 113.

⁵ Campbell v. French, 6 T. R. 212.—Com. Dig. tit. Merchant, F. 7. Bayl. 112. See Anonymous, Lutw. 1591.

Bills at sight when
duc.

With respect to a bill payable *at sight*, though from the very language of the instrument it should seem that payment ought to be made immediately on presentment, this does not appear to be so settled. The decisions and the treatises differ on the question, whether or not days of grace are allowable. Pothier¹, enumerating the various kinds of bills, states that a bill payable at sight, is payable as soon as the bearer presents it to the drawee; but in another part of his work², it appears that this opinion is founded on the words of a particular French ordinance, which cannot extend to bills payable in this country: however, he assigns as a reason that it would be inconvenient if a person who took a bill at sight, payable in a town through which he meant to travel, and the payment of which he stands in need of for the purpose of continuing his journey, should be obliged to wait till the expiration of the days of grace after he presented the bill; a reason obviously as applicable to the case of a bill drawn payable *at sight* in this as in any other country. Beawes, in his *Lex Mercatoria*³, says, that bills made payable here *at sight*, have no days of grace allowed, although it would be otherwise in the case of a bill made payable one day *after sight*. Mr. Kyd, in his *Treatise*⁴ expresses the same opinion. But it seems, that the rule is *unsettled*⁵. In *Dehers v. Harriot*⁶, it was taken for granted that days of grace are allowable on a bill payable at sight. The same point was decided in *Coleman v. Sayer*⁷. And in another case⁸, where the question was, whether a bill payable at sight, was included under an exception in the stamp act, 23 G. 3.

¹ Pl. 12. 172, 198.

² Id. pl. 172.

³ Pl. 256.

⁴ Page 10.

⁵ Bayl. 62, 66, 2d edit.—Bayl. 3d edit. pa. 42, 109, 110.

⁶ *Dehers v. Harriot*, 1 Show. 163.—Mod. Ent. 316.

⁷ *Coleman v. Sayer*, Barnard Rep. B. R. 303.—Vin. Ab. Bills of Exchange.

⁸ *I'Anson v. Thomas*, B. R. Trin. 24 G. 3. ante, 71.

e. 49. s. 4. in favour of bills payable *on demand*, the court held that it was not; and Buller, J. mentioned a case before Willes, C. J. in London, in which a jury of merchants was of opinion, that the usual days of grace were to be allowed on bills payable at sight. And Mr. Selwyn, in his *Nisi Prius*, observes, that the weight of authority is in favour of such allowance ¹.

Bills at sight when due.

When a check or bill or banker's note is expressed to be payable *on demand*, or when *no time of payment is expressed*, it is payable instantly on presentment, without any allowance of days of grace, and the presentment for payment of such a check or bill must be made *within a reasonable time* after the receipt of it ².

When checks, bills, &c. payable *on demand* should be presented for payment.

It has been frequently disputed, whether it is the province of the court, or of a jury, to determine upon the reasonableness of the time within which a check, &c. payable on demand, should be presented for payment. Formerly it was thought that it was a question for the jury; but the decisions, even of mercantile juries, were found so much at variance from each other, that for the sake of certainty on the subject, it is now settled, that the reasonableness of the time for presentment *is partly a question of fact*, and partly of law; the jury are to find the facts, such as the distance at which the parties are from each other, the course of the post, &c.; but when those facts are established, the reasonableness of the time is a question of law, upon which the judge is to direct the jury ³, though judges may take the opinion of a jury, as to what is convenient with reference to mercantile transactions ⁴. This doctrine, though formerly by no

¹ Selw. 4th edit. 339; and see Bayl. 42, 109, 110.

² Bayl. 103, 4, 5.

³ Ante, 335, 6.—Bayl. 103.—2 Taunt. 394.—Tindal v. Brown, 1 T. R. 168.—Darbishire v. Parker, 6 East, 3, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16.—Parker v. Gordon, 7 East. 386.—Haynes v. Birks, 3 Bos. & Pul. 599. Appleton v. Sweetapple, 1 Esp. N. P. 58.—Bayl. 106, note c.—The King v. the Dean of St. Asaph, 3 T. R. 428, n. a.

⁴ Per Grose, J. in Scott v. Lifford, 9 East. 347.

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means universally assented to¹, is founded upon the soundest principles of law²; it is justified also in point of expediency, for we find the most contradictory decisions of juries, when the point was left to them. Thus, in some cases, the keeping of a check or bill, payable on demand, three, four, or five days was holden not too long³; and in another case it was holden, that the presentment must be made within two days⁴, and in subsequent cases, that it should be made the day the bill is received, and that even an hour is an unreasonable time⁵; and the opinion of juries of merchants has been, that a check on a banker, or a cash note, payable on demand, ought, if given in the place where it is payable, to be presented for payment the same day it is received, if the distance, or other circumstances will possibly allow⁶.

Considering it then to be settled, that the time when the presentment for payment must be made is in general a question of law, we have now to examine what is the rule of law upon the subject. Upon this question it has been observed, that there is no other settled rule than that the presentment must be made *within a reasonable time*, which must be accommodated to other business and affairs of life, and the party is not bound to neglect every other transaction, in order to present the bill, note, or check, payable on demand, the same day it is issued⁷. And, as observed by Lord

¹ Russell v. Langstaffe, Dougl. 515. — Muilman v. D'Eguino, 2 H. Bl. 568, 9. — Hankey v. Trotman, 1 Bla. Rep. 1. — Bayl. 107. — Kyd. 41. — Poth. pl. 140.

² Darbishire v. Parker, 6 East. 10.

³ Phillips v. Phillips, 2 Freem. 247. — Crawley v. Crowther, id. 257.

⁴ Mainwaring v. Harrison, 1 Stra. 508.

⁵ Per Lord Mansfield, in Tindal v. Brown, 1 T. R. 168, 9. — Hankey v. Trotman, 1 Bla. Rep. 1. — Beawes, 229. — Kyd. 45. — Appleton v. Sweetapple, 1 Esp. N. P. 58. Bayl. 106, post, 348. — Pocklington v. Silvester, post, 351.

⁶ Appleton v. Sweetapple, 1 Esp. N. P. 58. — Bayl. 106, post, 348. Russell v. Langstaffe, Dougl. 515, n. b. 110. — Brown v. Collinson, Beawes, pl. 250. — Kyd. 43, 45. — Hankey v. Trotman, 1 Bla. Rep. 1.

⁷ Darbishire v. Parker, 6 East. 4, 8, 9. — Kyd. 129.

Mansfield, it would be unreasonable to suppose, that a tradesman should be compelled to run about the town with a dozen drafts, from Charing-cross to Lombard-street, on the same day; and he directed the jury to consider, that twenty-four hours was the usual time allowed for the presentment for payment¹.

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It is laid down, that upon a *bill* or *note*, payable on demand, or at sight, and given for cash by a person who makes the profit by the money on such bills or notes, a source of his livelihood, such as a country banker, it is difficult to say what length of time such person shall be entitled to consider unreasonable; but upon such bills or notes given by way of payment, or paid into a banker's, any time beyond that which the common course of business warrants is unreasonable².

Upon a bill or note of this kind given by way of payment, the course of business seemed formerly to allow the party to keep it, if it was payable in the place where it was given, until the morning of the next day of business after its receipt³, and according to

¹ Beawes, pl. 229.—Kyd. 45, 127, 8.—Ward v. Evans, 2 Salk. 442, S. P.—Scott v. Lifford, 9 East. 347.

² Bayl. 104.

³ Bayl. 104.—Ward v. Evans, 2 Lord Raym. 928: A banker's note was paid to the plaintiff's servant at noon, and presented for payment the next morning, at which time the banker stopped payment. On a case reserved, the court held it was presented in time, and judgment was given for the plaintiff.

Moor v. Warren, 1 Stra. 415. The defendant gave the plaintiff a banker's note at two o'clock in the afternoon, and he tendered it for payment the next morning at nine: the banker stopped a quarter of an hour before; and Pratt, C. J. told the jury the loss should fall on the defendant, there being no laches in the plaintiff, who had demanded the money as soon as was usual in the course of dealing, and that keeping the note till next morning could not be construed giving a new credit to the banker, and the jury found for the plaintiff. In Holmes v. Barry, Stra. 415, the circumstances were the same, and King, C. J. of the Common Pleas, gave similar directions, and the jury found accordingly.

Fletcher v. Sandys, 2 Stra. 1248. A banker's note was paid to the plaintiff after dinner, and he sent it for payment the next morning, but the banker had stopped payment; and Lee, C. J. ruled, that there were no laches in the plaintiff, and that in all these cases there must be a reasonable time allowed consistent with the nature of circulating paper credit.

Turner and others v. Mead, 1 Stra. 416. The defendants paid the Sword-blade Company, the plaintiffs, two bankers notes at three

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more recent decisions, it should seem, that if such a bill or note were payable by or at a banker's, it would suffice to present it for payment at any time during banking hours of the day after it is received¹. Thus where a note of this kind, payable in London, was given there in the morning, a presentment the next morning was held by the court sufficiently early, though juries have endeavoured to establish a contrary rule, and to find that the instrument must be presented the day it is received²; and though it has been supposed

o'clock in the afternoon, and the next morning their servant left them at the bankers in order to call for the money in the evening, it then being the custom with the plaintiffs and the bank, to send out their notes in the morning, and to call for the money in the afternoon. The plaintiffs' servant called for the money between four and five in the afternoon, and the banker had just stopped payment, and because the plaintiffs had done nothing more than was usual in leaving the notes in the morning without taking the money, Pratt, C. J. directed the jury to find for them, which they did.

Hoar v. Da Costa, 2 Stra. 910. The defendant paid the plaintiff a banker's note at twelve; he put it into the bank at one, and at ten the next morning, the runner from the bank carried it with other notes, and left them, as was then usual, to call again for the money: he called at eleven and was told the banker's servant was gone to the bank; he called again at two, when the banker said he was going to stop and refused payment, but he paid small notes till four o'clock. The defendant gave notice to the plaintiff the next morning, the question was, whether this note was payment to the plaintiff. It was insisted for the defendant, that if the note had been tendered by itself, it would have been paid; and for the plaintiff, that if there had been no demand there would have been no laches, being within a day after the receipt. Raymond, C. J. said there was no standing rule, and left it to the jury, who found for the plaintiff.

¹ *Robson v. Bennet*, 2 Taunt. 388. post, 351; and *Pocklington v. Silvester*, post, 351, 2.

² Bayl. 106, 7.—Beawes, pl. 229.—Kyd. 45, 127; see *Ward v. Evans*, and other cases in notes, ante, 247.

Appleton v. Sweetapple, K.B. Mich. 23 G. 3. 1 Esp. N.P. 58.—Bayl. 106. note c. S. C.—2 Taunt. 394. The case was, that plaintiff received from the defendant a banker's note at one o'clock in the day, but did not call for payment the whole of that day, and in the evening of it the banker failed. A verdict was found for the defendant, on the ground that it was the custom of the City that bills should be brought for payment the day they are received, but on a motion for a new trial, it appearing that there were many exceptions to this custom, as in the case of factors at Bear-key, the salesmen at Smithfield, and others, the court held that it was not sufficiently proved, and even if the decision had been on that ground, it must appear that the custom was reasonable, or the court would controul it, and therefore granted a new trial. The jury found again for the defendant, but against the judges direction: a second new trial was granted, and the jury again found for the defendant, and then the court refused to interfere.

that the presentment must be in the forenoon of the next day¹; yet the party has twenty-four hours², or according to a more recent decision, he has the whole of the banking hours, or hours of business of the next day to make the presentment³.

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It has been held, that a bill or note of this kind given by way of payment to a banker must be presented by him as soon as if it had been paid into his hands by a customer⁴, and that if such a bill or note be paid into a banker's, and be payable at the place where the banker lives, it must be presented the next time the banker's clerk goes his rounds⁴, but it should

¹ *East India Company v. Chitty*, 2 Stra. 1175.—Bayl. 104, 5.—*Mainwaring v. Harrison*, 1 Stra. 508. On Saturday the 17th of September, about two o'clock, Harrison gave Mainwaring a banker's note, dated the 5th of September, and payable to Harrison or order on demand; Mainwaring paid it away the same afternoon to J. S. and he presented it for payment on Tuesday morning, as soon as the shop was open, but the banker stopped payment at that time. Mainwaring paid the money to J. S. and brought this action to recover it from Harrison. Pratt, C. J. Left it to the jury whether there had been any neglect, and observed, that as Harrison had kept it eleven days, he probably would not have demanded payment sooner than J. S. did. The jury wished to leave it to the court whether there had been reasonable time, but the Chief Justice told them they were judges of that, upon which they found for the defendant, and gave it as their opinion, that a person who did not demand a banker's note in two days, took the credit on himself.

East India Company v. Chitty, 2 Stra. 1175. At half-past eleven in the morning of the 18th of January, the defendant paid the East India Company's cashier, a banker's note, and they did not send it for payment till the next day at two, at which time the banker stopped payment. The question was, who should bear the loss? and upon examining the merchants, it was held that the Company had made it their own by not sending it out the afternoon they received it, or at furthest, the next morning, and the jury found accordingly for the defendant.

² Per Lord Mansfield; see Beawes, pl. 229.—Kyd. 45.

³ *Pocklington v. Silvester*, post, 351.

⁴ Bayl. 107.—*Hankey v. Trotman*, 1 Bla. Rep. 1. The plaintiff was a banker, and had a bill on the defendant, for which the defendant paid him a draft upon another banker at twelve at noon, and the plaintiff got it marked for acceptance that night; before the next morning the banker on whom it was drawn stopped. The question was, whether the plaintiff or defendant should bear the loss? The jury found a verdict for the defendant, and upon a rule to shew cause why there should not be a new trial, and cause shewn, the court (Wright, J. dubitante) held that it was a question of fact, whether the plaintiff had sufficient time for receiving the money, of which the jury were the proper judges, and the verdict stood.

But see the cases of *Rickford v. Ridge*, 2 Campb. 537; and *Robson v. Bennet*, 2 Taunt. 388, and post, 351.

In the last-mentioned case, Mansfield, C. J. said, that *Hankey v.*

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seem that in all cases it suffices for a banker to present such check the day after he receives it¹.

If a bill or note, payable on demand, be payable elsewhere than in the place where it was given, it is laid down that the party receiving it must forward it for payment by the post of the next day after he received it², although that post may go out on the same day. But from other cases it should seem, that it would suffice if such bill or note were forwarded for payment by the regular post on the day after it is received³. It is certain, however, that holder's not forwarding such bill or note for payment, by the post, or some conveyance of the day after it was received, would be deemed laches.

With respect to a *check on a banker*, it is now settled that it suffices it to present it for payment to the banker at any time during banking hours on the day after it is received, and that no laches can be imputed to the holder in not presenting it for payment in the morning of the second day, although the bankers paid

Trotman had been over-ruled by *Appleton v. Sweetapple*. See 2 Taunt. 394.

¹ *Rickford v. Ridge*, 2 Campb. 537. post, 352; and *Robson v. Bennett*, 2 Taunt. 388, post, 351.

² Bayl. 104, 5.

³ *Rickford v. Ridge*, 2 Campb. 357, post, 382.—*Darbishire v. Parker*, 6 East. 3.

⁴ Bayl. 104, 5, and note to *Beccling and others v. Gower*, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 315, 6.

Action for money had and received. The defendant paid the plaintiffs a check of £20, drawn on the Maidstone-bank, on the 5th of April. It was given to the plaintiffs at the time of Tunbridge market, and they gave their own notes in exchange. It was given sometime before the post set out on the 5th. The plaintiffs kept it all the 5th and 6th, but sent it to Maidstone by the carrier on the morning of the 7th; the carrier reached Maidstone at nine o'clock on the 7th, but the Maidstone bank did not open that morning. If it had been sent by the post of the 6th it would have reached Maidstone at an hour earlier, viz. at eight o'clock in the morning of the 7th. Best, Serjeant, for the defendant, contended that the plaintiffs had been guilty of laches. Blosset, Serjeant, for the plaintiffs contra, relied on *Rickford v. Ridge*, 2 Campb. 537. Gibbs, C. J.—The plaintiff cannot recover, they have been guilty of laches; I will not say that it was not their duty to have sent the check off by the post of the 5th, but the extreme time up to which they were justified in keeping it was till the post of the 6th. They do not send it till the 7th. It does not matter when the carrier arrived, they must suffer for their negligence. Plaintiffs nonsuited.

drafts on them until the afternoon, and then stopped payment¹. And where a person in London received a check upon a London banker, between one and two o'clock, and lodged it soon after four with his banker, and the latter presented it between five and six, and got it marked as a good check, and the next day at noon, presented for payment at the clearing-house, the court held that there had been no unreasonable delay either by the holder in not presenting it for payment on the first day, which he might have done, or by his banker in presenting it at the clearing-house only on the following day at noon; it being proved to be the usage among such bankers, not to pay checks presented by one banker to another after four o'clock, but only to mark them if good, and to pay them the next day at the clearing-house². And it has been holden that a London banker who receives a check by the general post,

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¹ *Pocklington v. Silvester*, Sittings at Guildhall, after Trin. Term, 57 Geo. 3. This was an action brought by the plaintiffs for the amount of a check given by the defendants to the plaintiffs. The defendants drew the check on their bankers, Messrs. Mainwaring & Co. which was paid to the plaintiffs at eleven o'clock in the morning on the 16th of November, 1817, which was not presented till near five o'clock on the 17th. The bankers stopped payment at four o'clock on the 17th of November, and the defendants had notice thereof that evening. At the trial before Gibbs, C. J. at Guildhall, he directed a verdict for the plaintiff, on the ground that the plaintiffs had the whole of the banking hours of the next day to present the check for payment. The jury, however, contrary to the direction of the judge, found for defendants. In the ensuing term the plaintiff obtained a rule for a new trial, and upon the second trial before Burrough, J. at Guildhall, 10th of December, 1817, he directed a verdict for the plaintiffs, saying, that whatever doubts had been formerly entertained, it was now established as a rule of law, that the party receiving a check on a banker has the whole of the banking-hours of the next day to present it for payment. The jury found accordingly. See also *Robson and another v. Bennett and another*, 2 Taunt. 388.—*Rickford v. Ridge*, 2 Campb. 537.

² *Robson v. Bennett*, 2 Taunt. 388. On the 11th of September, between one and two o'clock, the defendants gave the plaintiffs a check upon Bloxam and Co. their bankers, in payment for goods. The plaintiffs lodged the check with Messrs. Harrison, their bankers, a few minutes after four, and they presented it between five and six to Bloxam and Co. who marked it as good: it was proved to be the usage amongst London bankers not to pay any check, presented by or on behalf of another banker, after four o'clock, but merely to mark it if good, and pay it the next day at the clearing-house. On the 12th at noon Harrison's clerk took this check to the clearing-house, but no person attended for Bloxam and Co. who stopped payment at nine on that morning; and the check therefore was treated as dishonoured. The plaintiffs in going with the check to Harrison's passed Bloxam's

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is not bound to present it for payment until the following day¹.

house. On a case stating these facts the court held, that there had been no laches in the plaintiffs in not presenting the check to Bloxam and Co. on the 11th for payment, or in his bankers in not presenting it at the banking-house, but merely at the clearing-house, and therefore gave judgment for the plaintiffs.

Per Lord Mansfield, C. J. The whole question amounts merely to this; a man who has bought goods, and given a draft on a banker, contends, that he has paid for those goods, though the plaintiff has never received the money. A draft was drawn on the 11th of September; on that day it was carried to the house of the drawee, and in the language of those persons was marked; the effect of that marking is similar to the accepting of a bill; for he admits thereby assets, and makes himself liable to pay. It is the practice of the bankers not to pay bills of this description, which are presented after four o'clock but to mark them; and it is usual that bills marked on one day are carried to the clearing-house, where their clerks meet and paid there on the next day. Therefore it is the same thing as if a banker had written on a check, "we pay this to-morrow at the clearing-house." On the next day, after marking the check, the banker stops payment; the holder's clerk goes to the clearing-house, where no clerk attends from Messrs. Bloxams, and the bill is not paid, and the first question is, whether there is any laches as to the time of presentment? As to that the case of *Appleton v. Sweetapple* decides, that a check need not be presented on the day on which it was drawn; now this bill was in fact presented and accepted on the very day on which it was drawn. The reason of that haste probably was in order to fix the banker, lest the drawer should be insolvent before the next day, bankers being usually persons of great substance, whereas the drawer may be of less credit; the mark on the check is an engagement to pay at a particular place; is not then the presenting it at that place equivalent to presenting at the banking house? It seems that it is; and that it therefore is no laches; consequently the surplus of the money for the coals remains due, and judgment must be entered for the plaintiff. See also *Reynolds v. Chettle*, 2 Campb. 596.—Selwyn, N. P. 4th ed. 341.

¹ *Rickford and others v. Ridge*, 2 Campb. 537. The plaintiffs, bankers at Aylesbury, gave the defendant cash for a check upon Smith and Co. bankers in London; and in an action to recover this money, it appeared that they took the check on the 13th June; but, instead of sending it to London by the post of that day, which they might have done, they sent it by a morning coach on the 14th, and their bankers, to whom it was directed, received it between three and four o'clock on the same day, and presented it at Smith's house at noon on the 15th, when payment was refused. It was proved that bankers to the west of St. Paul's, where the plaintiff's bankers resided, sent out checks and bills for payment only once in the day, and that generally before the arrival of the post; and therefore such as arrived by the post on one day generally remained with them until the following morning: so that had this check arrived by the post on the 14th, it would not have been presented until the 15th. The question therefore was, whether such practice were reasonable? It was admitted that a different practice prevailed to the east of St. Paul's. Lord Ellenborough said, the holder of a check is not bound to give notice of its dishonour to the drawer for the purpose of charging the person

It will be observed that this rule allowing the party receiving a bill, note, or check, payable on demand, until the next day to present it for payment, will not enable a succession of persons to keep such instrument long in circulation, so as to retain the liability of *all* the parties, in case the same should ultimately be dishonoured by the maker of the note, or drawee of the check¹.

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A presentment for payment of a bill, payable on a day certain, should in all cases be made within a reasonable time before the expiration of the day when it is due; and if by the known custom of any particular place, bills are only payable within limited hours, a presentment there, out of those hours, would be improper². This rule extends also to a presentment out of the hours of business to a person of a particular

Time of the day when the presentment should be made.

from whom he received it. He does enough if he presents it with due diligence to the bankers on whom it is drawn, and gives due notice of its dishonour to those only against whom he seeks his remedy. The question here is, whether if the check had arrived by post on the 14th, the bankers were bound to present it for payment the same day? This must be decided by the Law-merchant. I cannot hear of any arbitrary distinction between one part of the city and another. It is not competent to bankers to lay down one rule for the eastward of St. Paul's, and another for the westward. They may as well fix upon St. Peter's at Rome. It is always to be considered whether, under the circumstances of the case, the check has been presented with reasonable diligence. This is what the Law-merchant requires. The rule that the moment a check is received by the post, it should invariably be sent out for payment, would be most inconvenient and unreasonable. In Liverpool and other great towns different posts arrive at different hours; but it would be impossible to have clerks constantly ready to carry out all the bills and checks that may arrive in the course of the day; nor if it were possible, is it requisite that all other business being laid aside parties should devote themselves to the presenting of checks. The rule to be adopted must be a rule of convenience; and it seems to me to be convenient and reasonable, that checks received in the course of one day should be presented the next. Is this practice consistent with the Law-merchant? It cannot alter it. Bankers would be kept in a continual fever if they were obliged to send out a check the moment it is paid in. The arrangement mentioned by the plaintiffs witnesses appears subservient to general convenience, and not contrary to the Law-merchant, which merely requires checks to be presented with reasonable diligence."

¹ Admitted in *Boehm v. Sterling*, 7 T. R. 425.

² Bayl. 99. 110. Per Lord Ellenborough, in *Parker v. Gordon*, 6 Esp. Rep. 42.—7 East. 385. and in *Elford v. Teed*, 1 M. & S. 28. cited *Marius*, 2d edit. 187.

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description, where, by the known custom of the place, all such persons begin and leave off business at stated hours¹; and therefore when a bill is accepted, payable at a banker's, it must be presented there before five o'clock, or the usual hour of shutting up their shop, and presentment afterwards will not entitle the notary to protest it². And it has been recently determined, that no inference is to be drawn from the circumstance of the bill being presented by a notary in the evening that it had before been duly presented within the banking hours³. However a presentment of a bill at a banker's, where it is payable, is sufficient, although it be made after banking hours, provided a person be stationed there by the banker to return an answer and refuses to pay the bill⁴. And when the

¹ Bayl. 99.—*Leftley v. Mills*, 4 T. R. 170.

² *Parker v. Gordon*, 7 East. 385.—3 Smith, 358.—6 Esp. Rep. 41. S. C.—*Elford v. Teed*, 1 M. & S. 28.—*Jameson v. Swinton*, 2 Taunt. 224.—2 Campb. 374.—Selw. N. P. 4th edit. 342.

Parker v. Gordon. The drawee accepted the bill, payable at Davison and Co. his bankers; at the part of the town where Davison and Co. lived, bankers shut up at six o'clock. The bill was not presented for payment until after six, when the shop was shut up, and the clerks gone. In an action against the drawer, Lord Ellenborough held that this was not a good presentment, and nonsuited the plaintiff; and on a motion for a new trial the court held, that if a party took an acceptance, payable at a banker's, he bound himself to present the bill during the banking hours; and therefore rule refused. N. Lawrence and Le Blanc, justices, said the holder was not bound to take such an acceptance.

³ *Elford v. Teed*, 1 M. & S. 28.

⁴ *Garnett v. Woodcock*, 1 Stark. 475. Indorsee of bill against acceptor. The bill in question was drawn by Hodson and Co. in Lancashire, upon the defendants in London, for the sum of £670, payable to the order of the drawers, and indorsed by the drawers to the plaintiff. The defendants had accepted the bill, payable at Denison's and Co. bankers, London. The bill had been presented at Denison's and Co. between seven and eight in the evening of the day when it became due, and a boy returned for answer no orders. Campbell, for the defendants, contended, that since the bill was drawn in London, the place of payment being in the body of the bill, and had been accepted, payable at Denison's and Co. a presentment there was necessary; and that this was not a sufficient presentment, and cited *Parker v. Gordon*, 7 East. 385. *Elford v. Teed*, 1 M. & S. 28. There the court held, that the presentment at a banker's, after banking hours, was a nullity, although the presentment in that case had been made by a notary. He, admitted that when the bill had been made payable at a merchant's, a presentment, after banking hours, where a negative answer had been returned on presentment of the bill, had

party to pay the bill or note is not a banker, a presentment at any time, even late in the evening, will in general suffice¹.

Time of the day when the presentment should be made.

been deemed to be sufficient; but this was the case of a presentment at a banker's.

Lord Ellenborough. Bankers do not usually pay at so late an hour; but if a person be left there who gives a negative answer, there is no difference between that case and that of a presentment at a merchant's. I think, it is perfectly clear, that if a banker appoint a person to attend, in order to give an answer, a presentment would be sufficient if it were made before twelve at night. Verdict for the plaintiff.

In the ensuing term Campbell moved for a rule to shew a cause why there should not be a new trial; and he cited the words of Lawrence, J. in *Parker v. Gordon*, 7 East. 385. where he says, "the party might" have refused to take this special acceptance; but if he chose to take the acceptance payable in that manner, payable at the banker's, does he not agree to take it payable at the usual banking hours.

Lord Ellenborough. In that case no answer was given upon the presentment of the bill. Upon the trial, I laid down nothing but that, if a servant was stationed for the purpose of giving an answer, it was sufficient. In general, there are two presentments, one in the morning, and the other in the evening; but if there be a presentment in the evening, and the party is ready to give an answer, he does all that is necessary. The banker returned an answer by the mouth of his servant, and *non constat*, but that he was stationed there for the express purpose. Rule refused.

¹ *Barclay v. Bailey*, 2 Campb. 527. The presentment of a bill of exchange for payment at the house of a merchant, residing in London, at eight o'clock in the evening of the day it becomes due, is sufficient to charge the drawer. Action against the drawer of a bill of exchange, accepted by one David Hardy. At eight in the evening of the day the bill became due, it was presented at the house mentioned on the face of it, as the drawer's place of residence, when the answer given by a person who came to the door was, that Mr. Hardy had become bankrupt, and removed into another quarter of the town. On the part of the defendant it was proved, that he had a person stationed at this house for the purpose of taking up the bill, from nine in the morning till four in the afternoon, but that no one presented it during that time; and the point was strenuously argued, that a presentment so late as eight in the evening was insufficient to charge the drawer. Lord Ellenborough, I think this presentment sufficient; a common trader is different from bankers, and has not any peculiar hours for paying or receiving money; if the presentment had been during the hours of rest, it would have been altogether unavailing; but eight in the evening cannot be considered an unreasonable hour for demanding payment at the house of a private merchant, who has accepted a bill. The plaintiff had a verdict.

S. P. Jameson v. Swinton, 2 Taunt. 224.—2 Campb. 374. S. C.—*Bancroft v. Hall*, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 476.

Morgan v. Davison, 1 Stark. 114. Assumpsit by the indorsee of a bill of exchange against the drawer. The bill was made payable at Herring and Richardson's, Copthall-court, London. The plaintiff proved presentment at Herring and Richardson's, who were not bankers, in Copthall-court, on the day when the bill became due, between

Mode of presentment.

On presentment for payment, the bill, unless paid, must not be left, and if it be, the presentment is not considered as made until the money is called for¹; and though it has been holden that bankers are not guilty of neglect by giving up the bill to the acceptor, upon his delivery to them of his check on another banker²; this doctrine may now be questionable³.

Circumstances arising between presentment and actual payment.

If at any instant before the actual payment of a bill or check, given upon a condition, the drawer discover that the condition has not been performed, he may stop the payment thereof to the party who has thus eluded the condition⁴; and a banker who, upon presentment of a bill or check for payment, cancels the acceptance or drawer's name by mistake, may yet, upon discovering his error, before actual payment, effectually resist such payment as if he had not so cancelled the draft⁵, and where the drawee of a bill, on presentment for payment, said this bill will be paid, but we cannot allow you for a duplicate protest, and the holder refused to receive payment without the charges of such protest, it was held that the drawee was not bound to pay the bill⁶. So where bankers, at whose house by the terms of the accept-

six and seven in the evening, when no one was there but a girl left to take care of the counting-house. Lord Ellenborough held, that this was a sufficient presentment; the hour was not an improper one, and the holder might reasonably expect to find the party in his counting-house at that time.

¹ *Hayward v. Bank of England*, 1 Stra. 550.—Bayl. 102.—*Russell v. Hankey*, 6 T. R. 13.

Hayward kept cash at the bank, and paid in a banker's note; the runner to the bank of England left it the next morning, and called for the money in the afternoon, but in the interval the banker had stopped; and though this appeared to be the usual practice at the bank, King, C. J. said, it was dangerous to suffer persons to deal with notes in that manner, and that the Common Pleas were of that opinion in the like case, and he directed the jury to find for the plaintiff, which they did. See *vide* *Turner v. Mead*, 1 Stra. 416. and *Hoar v. Da Costa*, 2 Stra. 910.

² *Russell v. Hankey*, 6 T. R. 13.

³ See post, 367. 8.

⁴ *Wienholt v. Spitta*, 3 Campb. 376.

⁵ *Raper v. Birbeck*, 15 East. 17.—*Fernandez v. Glynn*, 1 Campb. 426. ante, 230.

⁶ *Anderson v. Heath*, 4 M. & S. 803. ante, 233. n. 5.

ance the bill was payable, had received money for the express purpose of taking up the bill two days after it became due, and upon tendering it to the holders, and demanding the bill, found that it had been sent back protested for non-payment, to the persons who indorsed it to the holders, it was decided that such bankers, having received fresh orders not to pay the bill, were not liable to an action by the holders for money had and received, when, upon the bill's being got back and tendered to them, they refused to pay the money¹. But we have seen, that if one banker present for payment to another banker a check on him in the usual course, and the latter marks it as approved, importing that it shall be paid the next day, at the clearing-house, this is binding on the latter, and is equivalent to an acceptance, and he must at all events pay it².

Circumstances arising between presentment and actual payment.

If the maker of a promissory note pay money into the hands of an agent to retire it, and the agent tenders the money to the holder on condition of having it delivered up, and the note being mislaid, this condition is not complied with, and the agent afterwards becomes bankrupt, with the money in his hands, it has been decided, that the maker is still responsible on the note³.

PAYMENT of a bill may not only be made by the acceptor, but also by any other party to it, and even by a total stranger, as in the case of a payment *supra protest*⁴, which will be spoken of hereafter; and that of payment by the bail of either of the parties⁵.

Sect. 2. Of payment; and 1st, by and to whom it may be made.

¹ Stewart and another v. Fry and another, 1 Moore Rep. 74.—1 Holt, C. N. P. 372. S. C. ante, 254. When money is to be considered as particularly appropriated to payment of a bill, see 14 East. 582. 590.

² Robson v. Bennett, 2 Taunt. 388, ante, 351.

³ Dent v. Dunn, 3 Campb. 256.

⁴ Poth. pl. 170.

⁵ Hull v. Pitfield, 1 Wils. 46.

Sect. 2. Of payment; and 1st, by and to whom it may be made.

Payment should always be made *to* the real proprietor of the bill¹, or to one of several partners², or to some person authorized by him to receive it, as a factor, &c.³; and payment to the payee will, consequently, be inoperative, if he have ceased to be the proprietor of it, by having indorsed it to another person, and the drawee has notice of the fact⁴. And if a bill be payable to A. B. only, and not negotiable, it is said that A. B. in person must appear to demand payment⁵. If the holder of a bill die, payment should not be made to his personal representative, unless he has a power of administering his effects⁶. But payment to a person having obtained probate of a forged will of a deceased party will be valid⁷. On a bill payable to A. or order, to the use of B. payment should be made to A. or his indorsee, and not to B.⁸. If a bill be beneficial to a minor, payment to him would be valid⁹; but a payment to a married woman, after knowledge of that fact, would not discharge the person making it¹⁰. When a bill is indorsed to a person merely for the purpose of receiving payment for the indorser, and the authority given to the indorsee is afterwards revoked, either by the party himself, or by operation of law, as by his death, it is said that payment to the indorsee will not discharge the person making it, if he had notice of the revocation¹¹; this doctrine, however, is objected to by Beawes, in his

¹ Poth. pl. 142, 3.—Bayl. 142.

² *Duff v. East India Company*, 15 Ves. 213.

³ *Favenc v. Bennett*, 11 East. 40.

⁴ Poth. pl. 164.

⁵ *Marius*, 4th ed. 34.

⁶ Poth. pl. 166.—Bayl. 143.

⁷ *Allen v. Dundas*, 3 T. R. 125.

⁸ *Cramlington v. Evans*, 2 Vent. 310.—*Carth. 5. S. C.*—*Marchington v. Vernon*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 101. n. c.—*Smith v. Kendall*, 6 T. R. 123, 4. ante, 160.

⁹ Poth. pl. 166.—Bayl. 143.

¹⁰ *Id.* 167.—*Barlow v. Bishop*, 1 East. 167.—Bayl. 143.—Ante, 25.

¹¹ Poth. 168. et Mar. 72, 3. sed quære, *Tate v. Hilbert*, 2 Ves. jun. 114, 5. 118. 121.—16 Ves. jun. 450. ante, 220, 1.—2 Bos. & Pul. 277.

*Lex Mercatoria*¹, and it must certainly be confined to the single case of an indorsement to an agent, for the purpose of his receiving payment for his principal. Payment of debts should not in general be made to the agent of an attorney². But in ordinary cases, the mere production of a bill of exchange, note, or check, is in general sufficient to warrant the payment to the person who produces it³, and this without reference to the circumstance of his being the habitual agent of the same party⁴.

Sect. 2. Of payment; and 1st, by and to whom it may be made.

We have seen⁵, that in general when the holder of a bill or note indorsed in blank, or payable to bearer, loses or is robbed of it, and the person finding or stealing it, presents it to the drawee at the time it is due, and he pays it without knowing of the loss or robbery, such payment will discharge him; and although he had notice of such fact, yet if the person presenting the bill to him was a *bonâ fide* holder, such notice would not invalidate the payment. But a payment before a bill or check is due, will not discharge the drawee, unless made to the real proprietor of it; and therefore, where a banker paid a check the day before it bore date, which had been lost by the payee, it was adjudged that he was liable to repay the amount to the person losing it⁶; and it is perhaps advisable, that an acceptor should in no case pay a bill before it is due⁷, or after notice from the drawer or indorser not to pay it⁸. And if bankers pay a check, under circumstances which ought to have excited their suspicion, and induced them to make inquiries before paying it, they cannot take credit for the amount in their account

¹ Pl. 219.

² *Yates v. Frecklington*, Dougl. 622.

³ *Owen v. Barrow*, New. Rep. 103. Per Mansfield, C. J. Anon. 12 Mod. 564. Pal. P. & A. 181.

⁴ Anon. 12 Mod. 564.—2 Ld. Raym. 930.—Pal. P. & A. 181.

⁵ Ante, 190, 1.

⁶ Ante, 192.

⁷ Com. Dig. tit. Merchant, F. 7.—Mar. 129, 130.

⁸ *Bacon v. Searles*, 1 Hen. Bla. 89.—Mar. 129.—Com. Dig. tit. Merchant, F. 7.—Ante, 192.

Sect. 2. Of payment; and 1st, by and to whom it may be made.

with their customer¹; and where a person pays a sum of money into a banker's for a special purpose, viz. to pay a particular bill, and the banker's clerk, by mistake, pays the money to the holder of another bill, he may sue the bankers for the amount, but not the party to whom the payment was made². Where a bill, transferrable only by indorsement, and not indorsed, is lost by the person entitled to indorse, no other person can transfer the interest in the bill; and consequently a payment by the drawee, even to a bonâ fide holder, will not in such case be protected³.

Payment to a person or his order, after the knowledge of his having committed an act of *bankruptcy*, would be ineffectual⁴. Thus it has been holden, that if a banker pay the draft of a trader keeping cash with him, after notice of an act of bankruptcy, the assignees may recover the money paid, either from the banker⁵, or from the payee of the check, if such payee had notice of the bankruptcy⁶, unless the payment were by compulsion of law⁷, but still until a commission has issued against the holder, there is no defence to an action at his suit⁸; and after action bonâ fide brought

¹ Scholey v. Ramsbottom, 2 Campb. 485. ante, 192.

² Rogers v. Kelly, 2 Campb. 123.

³ Mead v. Young, 4 T. R. 28.—Anchor v. The Governor and Company of the Bank of England, Dougl. 337. et ante, 190, 1.

⁴ Kitchen v. Bartsch, 7 East. 53. ante, 149, &c.—Copke's Bankrupt Laws, 584, 5.

⁵ Id. ibid.—Vernon v. Hankey, 2 T. R. 113.—3 Bro. 313.

⁶ Vernon v. Hanson, 2 T. R. 287.

⁷ 14 Ves. jun. 557.—1 Mont. 316.; but see Blogg v. Phillips, 2 Campb. 129.

⁸ Prichell and others v. Down and others, 3 Campb. 131. Held that where two partners have stopped payment, and a commission of bankrupt is taken out against one of them, a debtor to the firm, who knows of the stoppage, cannot refuse to pay money due to them on the ground that the other may have committed an act of bankruptcy, in which case his assignees might call upon the debtor to pay a moiety of the money a second time. Per Lord Ellenborough, C. J. The defendants are not under the protection of the act 46 Geo. 3. c. 135. s. 1. but before it was passed they could not have justified refusing to pay the balance in their hands, under similar circumstances, to whatever subsequent inconvenience the payment might have exposed them. *Till the party has actually become a bankrupt, and a commission has been taken out against him, he may sue his debtors.*

by such party, it should seem that the defendant might safely pay the money into court, in order to prevent further costs ¹.

Sect. 2. Of payment; and 1st, by and to whom it may be made.

So a payment made to a bankrupt, or his order, without notice of his being so, will, in all cases, discharge the person making it²: and it has been holden, that if a debtor, not having notice of the bankruptcy of his creditor, give him his acceptance in discharge of the debt, he may afterwards pay such acceptance to the holder of the bill, although between the time when he accepted and the time when the bill became due, he heard of the bankruptcy, the giving, indorsing, or accepting a bill of exchange, being considered as an immediate payment within the meaning of the statute of James, which protects *bonâ fide payments* made to a bankrupt, provided the bill be honoured when due³.

So also a payment made *by a bankrupt* to a person not *having notice of the bankruptcy or insolvency*, and being a *bonâ fide* creditor for goods sold, or by the bankrupt's having drawn, negotiated, or accepted a bill of exchange in the *usual or ordinary course of trade and dealing*, is protected by the statute 19 G. 2. c. 32⁴. We have already considered some of the

There may be peril in paying a man who is known to have stopped payment, but that affords no defence to an action for a debt justly due to him. Verdict for the plaintiffs.

¹ Foster v. Allanson, 2 T. R. 479.—14 East. 588.—2 Ves. jun. 104. 5, 6.

² 1 Jac. 1. c. 15. s. 14.; and see 46 Geo. 3. c. 135. s. 1. and post, Bayl. 143, 4.—Cole v. Robins, 3 Campb. 186.

³ Wilkins v. Casey, 7 T. R. 711.—Ante, 154.—Bayl. 143.; and see Foxcraft v. Devonshire, 1 Bla. Rep. 193.—3 Campb. 185.

⁴ By this statute it is enacted, that no person who is or shall be really and *bonâ fide* a creditor of any bankrupt, for or in respect of goods, really and *bonâ fide* sold to such bankrupt, or for or in respect of any bill or bills of exchange really and *bonâ fide* drawn, negotiated, or accepted by such bankrupt, in the usual or ordinary course of trade and dealing, shall be liable to refund or repay to the assignee or assignees of such bankrupt's estate, any money which before the suing forth of such commission was really and *bonâ fide*, and in the usual and ordinary course of trade and dealing, received by such person of any such bankrupt before such time as the person receiving

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decisions upon this act¹. It has been doubted whether promissory notes², or checks on bankers, are within this act³. It has been held, that payment of a bill to a creditor by a bankrupt under an arrest, after a secret act of bankruptcy, is a payment in the course of trade⁴; but if the payment be intended as a fraudulent preference it will not be valid⁵. If the holder of a bill give time to the acceptor, upon condition that he should allow interest, and he afterwards pay the bill, having previously committed a secret act of bankruptcy, this is not a payment in the usual course of trade within the meaning of the statute⁶. So where *A.* having recovered a verdict against *B.* who afterwards committed an act of bankruptcy, and *A.* not having had notice thereof, took a bill drawn by *B.* on *C.* for the amount of the sum recovered, payable at a distant period, which bill was afterwards paid: it was determined that this payment was not protected by the statute, and consequently that *A.* was liable to refund the money received by him to the assignees of *B.*⁷. And where bankers having accepted bills for the accommodation of a trader, he, after committing an act of bankruptcy, but before a commission is sued out, lodges money with them to take up the bills, which do not become due till after a commission is sued out,

the same shall know, understand or have notice, that he is become a bankrupt, or that he is in insolvent circumstances."

See also 46 Geo. 3. c. 135, post, 363. In *Harwood v. Lomas*, 11 East. 131. it was doubted whether payments of promissory notes are within this act.

¹ Ante, 153 to 156.

² *Harwood v. Lomas*, 11 East. 131.

³ *Holroyd v. Whitehead*, 5 Taunt. 444.—1 Marsh. 128.

⁴ *Cox v. Morgan*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 398.—*Ex parte Farr*, 9 Ves. 515.—Sed vide *Southey v. Butler*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 237.; but see *Blogg v. Phillips*, 2 Campb. 129.—*Cullen*, 238, 9,—*Bayly v. Schofield*, 1 M. & S. 338.

⁵ *Singleton v. Butler*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 283.—*Southey v. Butler*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 237.

⁶ *Vernon v. Hall*, 2 T. R. 648.; and see 1 Montg. 311, 312, 313. 2 Ves. 550.—*Cullen*, 234.

⁷ *Pinkerton v. Marshall*, 2 Hen. Bla. 334.

and are then regularly paid by the acceptors¹, it was held, that they were bound to refund this money to the assignees, and that they neither had a right of set-off under 5 Geo. 2. c. 30. nor could protect themselves under 19 Geo. 2. c. 32. as having received the money in payment of bills of exchange in the ordinary course of trade. And where bankers, after a secret act of bankruptcy of the acceptor paid a bill for him, accepted payable at their house, and he afterwards remitted the money to them, it was decided that they were liable to refund; because the bankrupt was not liable to them on the bill, and his repayment to them was only in satisfaction of a loan, which is not a payment protected by the statute². So if bankers pay a check drawn upon them by a trader after a secret act of bankruptcy, they cannot retain money received to cover such check³.

Sect. 2. Of payment; and 1st, by and to whom it may be made.

So it has been decided, that the assignees of a bankrupt are entitled to recover back money paid by the bankrupt to the defendant after a secret act of bankruptcy, (though before the date of the commission,) which the defendant had before recovered by judgment against the bankrupt in an action on a promissory note, reserving interest half yearly given for the balance of an account amongst other things consisting of *money lent*, such note not being given in the usual and ordinary course of dealing, so as to be protected by 19 Geo. 2. c. 32. even supposing a promissory note to be within that statute, which only mentions bills of exchange⁴.

However, by the 46 Geo. 3. c. 135. s. 1. 2. it was enacted, "that in all cases of commissions of bankrupt thereafter to be issued, all conveyances by, *all*

¹ Tamplin and others, assignees of Visich, a bankrupt, v. Digging and others, 2 Campb. 312.

² Holroyd v. Whitehead, 3 Campb. 530, 533. — 2 Rose, 145. — 5 Taunt. 444. — 1 Marsh. 128. S. C.

³ Id. ibid.

⁴ Harwood v. Lomas, 11 East. 127.

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payments by and to, and all contracts and other dealings and transactions by and with any bankrupt bonâ fide made or entered into more than two calendar months before the date of such commission, shall, notwithstanding any prior act of bankruptcy committed by such bankrupt, be good and effectual to all intents and purposes whatsoever, in like manner as if no such prior act of bankruptcy had been committed, provided the person or persons so dealing with such bankrupt had not at the time of such conveyance, payment, contract, dealing or transaction, any notice of any prior act of bankruptcy by such bankrupt committed, or *that he was insolvent or had stopped payment*¹, and that all and every person and persons with whom the bankrupt shall have really and bonâ fide contracted any debt or debts *before the date and suing forth of such commission, which if contracted before any act of bankruptcy committed, might have been proved under such commission*, shall notwithstanding any prior act of bankruptcy may have been committed by the bankrupt, be admitted to prove such debt or debts, and to stand and be a creditor under such commission to all intents and purposes whatever, in like manner as if no such prior act of bankruptcy had been committed by such bankrupt, provided such creditor or creditors had not, at the time of such debt or debts being contracted, any notice of any prior act of bankruptcy committed." Since this act, the statute 19 Geo. 2. c. 32. can only come in question where the payment is made within two months before the suing out of the commission².

2dly. Within what time payment must be made.

We have already seen that a bill or check should not be prematurely paid³; Marius gives particular directions on this point⁴. The general rule with respect to the time allowed for the payment of money, when

¹ As to the construction of these words, see ante, 153 to 156,

² 2 Campb. 315. in note.

³ Ante, 191, 2.—Bayl. 145, 6.

⁴ Marius, 4th ed. 31.

a day certain is appointed, is, that the party bound has till the last moment of the day to pay it¹; but it is otherwise with respect to *foreign* bills, for as the protest for non-payment of them should be made on the last day of grace², so as to be sent if possible by the post on that day, it follows that the holder may insist on payment on demand, or at least before the hours of business are expired³.

2dly. Within what time payment must be made.

With respect to *inland* bills it has been much discussed whether the acceptor has not the whole day for payment. On the one hand a bill of exchange has been assimilated to other contracts, in which the party has till the last instant of the day to pay the same: but on the other hand it has been urged that the contract of an acceptor of a bill, or maker of a note, is to pay on demand on the appointed day, and that if payment be not made on such demand, the contract is broken: and the holder may treat the bill or note as dishonoured⁴. The latter doctrine appears now to be established; and, therefore, where the acceptor having said at eleven o'clock in the day that he would not pay the bill, it was decided that the holder might immediately resort to the drawer, so that notice of the dishonour may be given on the same day⁵. It is not

¹ *Hudson v. Barton*, 1 Rol. Rep. 189.—1 Saund. 288. n. 17.—*Leftley v. Mills*, 4 T. R. 173.

² *Tassell v. Lee*, 1 Ld. Raym. 743. et post. sed quære, see Vin. Ab. tit. Time, A. 2. pl. 3.—Anonymous, Lutw. 1593.

³ *Colkett v. Freeman*, 2 T. R. 61.—*Parker v. Gordon*, 7 East. Rep. 385.—3 Smith's Rep. 358. S. C.

⁴ *Leftley v. Mills*, 4 T. R. 170. arguments of Kenyon, C. J. and Buller, J. disputed by Lord Alvanley, C. J. in *Haynes v. Birks*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 602.

⁵ Ex parte Moline, 1 Rose, 303.—*Burbridge v. Manners*, 3 Campb. 193.—*Hume v. Peploe*, 8 East. 169.

Ex parte Moline, 1 Rose, 303. In this case the point was, the acceptor having said at eleven o'clock in the day that he would not pay the bill, whether the holder could immediately resort to the drawer? The Lord Chancellor was of opinion that he could. Sir Samuel Romilly mentioned *Burbridge v. Manners*, 3 Campb. 194, S. P.

Burbridge v. Manners, 3 Campb. 193. This was an action on a promissory note for £101. 15s. 5d. dated 11th October, 1810, drawn by J. Finney, payable three months after date, at Fraser and Co.'s, to the defendant, indorsed by him to one Tinson, and by Tinson to the

edly. Within what time payment must be made.

usual or necessary to give notice of non-payment before the following morning, and therefore there can be no objection to the allowance of the whole day on which the bill becomes due, to pay it in¹. At all events, if the holder make a second presentment on the last day of grace, the acceptor may insist on paying it when such presentment is made, without paying the fees of noting or protesting, notwithstanding such presentment be made after banking-hours, and expressly for the purpose of noting and protesting². But in a late case it was decided, that a plea of a tender made *after the day of payment* of a bill of exchange, and before action brought is insufficient, although the plea averred that the defendant was always ready to pay from the time of the tender, and that the sum tendered was the whole money then due, owing, or payable to the plaintiff in respect of the bill, with interest from the time of the default, for the damages sustained by the plaintiff by reason of the non-performance of the promise³. However a drawer or indorser may tender within a reasonable time after notice, as it is not to be expected that he is to be ready at the instant he receives notice to pay the

plaintiff. The note was regularly presented for payment in the forenoon of the day it became due, when payment was refused, and in the afternoon of the same day the plaintiff caused notice of its dishonour to be sent to the defendant. Park, for the defendant, objected that this was not sufficient notice of the dishonour. Finney, the maker of the note, had the whole of the day it became due to pay it, and till the last minute of that day it could not be considered as dishonoured. The notice therefore stated what was untrue, and was evidently premature. Per Lord Ellenborough. I think the note was dishonoured as soon as the maker had refused payment on the day when it became due, and the notice sent to the defendant must have answered all the purposes for which notice in such cases is required. The holder of a bill or note gives notice of its dishonour in reasonable time the day after it is due, but he may give such notice as soon as it has been dishonoured, the day it becomes due; and the other party cannot complain of the extraordinary diligence used to give him information. Verdict for the plaintiff.

¹ Leftley v. Mills, 4 T. R. 170.—Vin. Ab. tit. Time, A. 2. pl. 3.—Haynes v. Birks, 3 Bos. & Pul. 599.

² Leftley v. Mills, 4 T. R. 170.—Poth. pl. 140, 174.; see post as to protest for non-payment.

³ Hume v. Peploe, 8 East, 168.

amount¹. If a promissory note of twenty years date be unaccounted for, it affords a presumption of payment².

2dly. Within what time payment must be made.

When a bill is drawn here, and payable in a foreign country in foreign coin, the value of which is reduced by the government of that country, it is said that the bill shall be payable according to the value of the money at the time it was drawn³. But though a war between this and a foreign country may in some cases excuse the obligation on a British subject to pay a bill in such foreign country⁴, yet we have seen, that where a note was made payable in Paris, or at the choice of the bearer in England, according to the course of exchange upon Paris, it was holden, that as the direct course of exchange between London and Paris had ceased, the holder was entitled to recover upon the note, according to the circuitous course of exchange by Hamburgh at the time the note was presented⁵. The effect of payment by a remittance of bills by post, which are lost, has also already been stated⁶. Payment is frequently made by a draft on a banker, in which case, if the person receiving the draft, do not use due diligence to get it paid, the person from whom he received it, and every other party to the bill will be discharged, but not otherwise, unless the holder expressly agreed to run all risks⁷; and it has been holden, that the act of writing a receipt in full will not be evidence of such agreement⁸.

3dly. Payment how made.

When payment is made by the drawee giving a draft on a banker, Marius advises the holder *not to*

¹ Walker v. Baines, 5 Taunt. 240.—1 Marsh. 36, S. C.

² Duffield v. Creed, 5 Esp. Rep. 52.

³ Dacosta v. Cole, Skin. 272.

⁴ Pollard v. Herries, 3 Bos. & Pul. 340.

⁵ Ante, 301.—Pollard v. Herries, 3 Bos. & Pul. 335.

⁶ Ante, 203, 4.

⁷ Vernon v. Boverie, 2 Show. 296.—Ward v. Evans, 2 Ld. Raym. 930.—12 Mod. 521. S. C.—Vin. Ab. tit. Payment, A.—Dent v. Duna, 3 Campb. 296.—Ante, 122 to 130.

⁸ Ante, 122 to 130, 184, 5.

3dly. Payment
now made.

*give up the bill until the draft be paid*¹. Till lately, the usage in London was otherwise when the drawee was a respectable person in trade; and in one case, it was decided, that a banker having a bill remitted to him to present for payment, is not guilty of negligence in giving it up upon receiving from the acceptor a check upon another banker for the amount payable the same day, although such check be afterwards dishonoured²; but in a late case at Nisi Prius, it was considered, that the drawer and indorsers of a bill would be discharged by the holder's taking a check from and delivering up the bill to the acceptor, in case the check be not paid; because the drawer and indorsers have a right to insist on the production of the bill, and to have it delivered up on payment by them³. If, however, the holder of a draft on a banker receive payment thereof in the banker's notes instead of cash, and the banker fail, the drawer of the check will be discharged⁴. But if a creditor, on any other account than a bill of exchange, is offered cash in payment of his debt, or a check upon a banker from an agent of his debtor, and prefer the latter, this does not discharge the debtor, if the check is dishonoured, although the agent fails with a balance of his principal in his hands to a much larger amount⁵. When twenty years have elapsed since the date of a note, &c. payment will be presumed unless the contrary appear⁶. And when

¹ Mar. 21.—Ward v. Evans, 12 Mod. 521.—Vernon v. Boverie, 2 Show. 395.

² Russell v. Hankey, 6 T. R. 12.—Paley P. & A. 8, 37, 144, 186, 7, and see Turner v. Mead, 1 Stra. 416.—Haward and the Bank of England, id. 550.—Kyd. 43.—Mar. 121.—See Haynes v. Birks, 3 Bos. & Pul. 601. as to sanctioning usage.

³ Powell v. Roche, Sittings at Guildhall, before Lord Ellenborough, A. D. 1806; Shaw, Clement's Inn, attorney for plaintiff; Neeld & Fladgate, attornies for defendant; and see Mar. 22. et ante, 192 to 202, as to recovering at law and without producing a bill, &c. et ante, 190 to 204, and post, as to sending a protested bill.

⁴ Vernon v. Boverie, 2 Show. 296. ante, 128.

⁵ Everett v. Collins, 2 Campb. 515.; and see Dent v. Dunn, 3 Campb. 296.—Marsh v. Peddar, Holt, C. N. P. 72.—Tapley v. Masters, 8 T. R. 451.—Wyatt v. Marquiss of Hertford, 3 East. 147.

⁶ Duffield v. Creed, 5 Esp. Rep. 52.

bills are taken in payment of a debt, and the party
sues upon the original consideration, payment of the
bills will be presumed till the contrary appear¹. And
it has been holden, that the production of a check
drawn by the defendant payable to the plaintiff and
indorsed by him, is evidence of the payment, though
the mere insertion of the parties name in the draft
would not have that effect²; and it should seem that
in the first place the indorsement on the check would
not be evidence unless stamped as a receipt, such in-
dorsement not being within the exception of the
44 Geo. 3. c. 98. schedule A. in favour of a receipt,
discharge, or acquittance, written on the back of a bill
or note duly stamped, or on the back of a foreign
bill payable in Great Britain. And in a recent case it
was held that proof of the delivery and payment of a
check to the plaintiff is not sufficient evidence of a
debt, in order to support a set-off, unless it be shewn
upon what consideration and under what circum-
stances the check was given³.

3dly. Payment
how made.

As bills of exchange differ from other debts in re-
spect of their assignable quality, it has been decided
that a negotiable bill of exchange is not to be con-
sidered as paid or satisfied by the drawer's bequeathing
a larger legacy to the party in whose favour it was
drawn, although such party continued to be holder at
the time of the testator's death⁴.

If money be paid into a banking-house to be placed
to the credit of another upon a condition, the money
in the mean time to stand in the bankers books in
the name of the party paying it in; it is at his risk
and the loss is his, if the bankers fail before the con-
dition is complied with, though the other party had
written to desire it to be paid in generally⁵.

¹ *Hebden v. Hartsink*, 4 Esp. Rep. 46.

² *Egg v. Barnett*, 3 Esp. Rep. 196.; see *Pfiel v. Vembatenberg*,
2 Campb. 439.; but see *Aubert v. Walsh*, 4 Taunt. 293.

³ *Aubert v. Walsh*, 4 Taunt. 293.

⁴ *Carr v. Eastabrook*, 3 Ves. jun. 561.—2 Roper 20.

⁵ *Culley v. Short*, 1 Cooper Eq. Ca. 148.

**Sdly. Payment
how made.**

In general where a party owes several debts, and pays money generally to the creditor without directing that it shall be applied in satisfaction of one of the debts in particular, the creditor may apply it in discharge of any one of the debts as he may think fit, and this even to the prejudice of a party who was surety for one of the debts¹; but in an account with bankers the payments, advances, and receipts on each side are to be considered as applicable in reduction of the earliest part of the account²; and where bankers discounted for the drawer a bill accepted for his accommodation, and after it was dishonoured were informed of that fact, and requested by the drawer not to apply to the acceptor, and afterwards the drawee's account with them was in his favour, it was decided that the balance being thus once turned in his favour, the bill was to be considered as satisfied, although afterwards the drawer became insolvent and was much indebted to them in consequence of subsequent advances³.

¹ *Goddard v. Cox*, 2 Stra. 1194.—*Bosanquet v. Wray*, 6 Taunt. 597. *Kirby v. Duke of Marlborough*, 2 M. & S. 18.—*Plomer v. Long*, 1 Stark. 153.

² *Clayton's case*, cited 1 Meriv. 585, 608; see other cases 2 Bridgm. Ind. 586, 7.

³ *Marsh and another v. Houlditch*, sittings at Westminster after Easter Term, 1818, before Mr. Justice Abbott. Assumpsit on a bill for £500, dated 28th June, 1811, payable three months after date, drawn by Joel George Young, upon and accepted by the defendant for the accommodation of the drawer, and indorsed by him to the plaintiffs. The drawer, on being released, swore as follows:—In June 1811, I re-opened my account with the plaintiffs, when the bill for £500 was discounted. I had other bills with them, they were discounted together, I had credit for that sum in my account; no other bills were discounted for me during this account. Defendant had no consideration whatever for this bill; I was aware of the time of its becoming due. On that day I called at defendant's house, he was not at home, I think I found a banker's ticket there. That day or the next, I saw Mr. Fauntleroy, (one of the plaintiffs) I told him the bill was an accommodation from defendant to me; that I should take it up, and requested him not to apply to defendant. He said very well, and requested me to take it up as soon as I could; he did not like defendant's bills, he had had trouble enough with him. I said he might depend upon me; he said, he should look to me and not mind him. The bill was due the 1st of October, I paid in £104 at the time of the conversation; shortly afterwards the balance was in my favour. In the course of the month I paid in £1000, and did not draw out above £200. Some months afterwards, for the first time, I heard

If when a bill or note becomes due the holder renews the same, or, for valuable consideration, agrees with the drawee of the bill, or maker of the note, to give him time for payment, without the concurrence of the other parties entitled to sue on the bill or note, they will thereby in general be discharged from all liability, although the holder may have given due notice of the non-payment'. There is no obligation of

Of the effect of giving time to or releasing the acceptor, &c.

again of this bill; I failed in October 1812, heard of application to defendant, from him, and went to plaintiffs upon it. In May the bill was at rest completely; 20th and 23d of May I paid monies, but cannot recollect on what particular account. I went to plaintiffs on my general accounts, after defendant had had a letter from the plaintiffs; I had an interview with them, and they agreed I should clear up my account as soon as I could; they wanted security or would make me no more advances; they had a security from me in January, but could make no use of it.—Mr. Justice Abbott, to plaintiffs' counsel, unless you can alter the fact of the conversation, it is an answer to the action. The banking account of the drawer with the plaintiffs having, at one time after the bill was due, been in his favour to a larger amount than the bill, the plaintiffs were bound to apply the balance in discharge of that bill, and could not keep it as a security for a fluctuating balance, which might ultimately become due to them. Plaintiffs nonsuited.

¹ Anderson v. George, London, Sittings after Trin. Term, 1757. cor. Lord Mansfield.—Selw. N. P. 4th ed. 372. Action by indorsee against indorser of promissory note. The note was presented for payment when due. The maker desired two or three days time to pay it in, and so from time to time, which was given to him by the then holders. Lord Mansfield said, here is an actual credit given for eight days, and the loss must fall on the plaintiff; and therefore there was a verdict for the defendant.

In Tindal v. Brown, 1 T. R. 169. Per Buller, J. As to giving time, the holder does it at his peril; and that circumstance alone would be sufficient to decide this case. For in no case has it been determined, that the indorser is liable after the holder of the note has given time to the maker.

English v. Darley, 2 Bos. & P. 61. The holder of a bill sued the indorser and acceptor, and took out execution against the acceptor, and received £100 from him, and took his bond and warrant of attorney for payment of the remainder by instalments, with interest and costs, excepting only a nominal sum to enable him to support actions against the other parties. He then brought on to trial this action against the indorser. Lord Eldon thought that the bargain to give indulgence to the acceptor was a bar, and nonsuited the plaintiff; and on motion for a new trial, the court was clear that the nonsuit was right; because giving time to the acceptor was a pledge that he should have time from all the other parties, and the holder had no right to give such pledge, and yet hold the other parties liable. Per Lord Eldon, C. J. It is very clear that the holder of a bill may at his election sue any or all the parties to it; and that, if they all become bankrupt, he may prove against the estates of all, unless he

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active diligence on the part of the holder to sue the acceptor or any other party, and he may forbear to

receive part of the debt from any one; and although the debt be reduced from time to time by dividends, no part of the proof shall be expunged under any of the commissions till 20s. in the pound have been received. As long as the holder is passive, all his remedies remain; and if any of the parties be discharged by the act of law, as by an insolvent debtor's act, that operation of law shall not prejudice the holder. With respect to *Malin v. Mulhall* it may be observed, that the marginal abstract of that case is incorrect; for it appears from the report, that the person first sued was a subsequent indorser: had the plaintiff first sued the prior indorser, and discharged him from execution, it would have afforded sufficient objection to an action against a subsequent indorser. If a holder enter into an agreement with a prior indorser in the morning not to sue him for a certain period of time, and then oblige a subsequent indorser in the evening to pay the debt, the latter must immediately resort to the very person for payment to whom the holder has pledged his faith that he shall not be sued. In the case *Ex parte Smith* Lord Thurlow, after consulting with all the judges, was of opinion that the holder of a bill, by entering into a composition with the acceptor, discharged the indorser; and accordingly ordered the proof against the estate of the latter to be expunged, proceeding on the ground of the acceptor's liability being varied by the act of the holder. We all remember the case where Mr. Richard Burke being co-surety for an annuity, the grantee gave time to the principal, and yet argued that Mr. Burke was not relieved thereby though the principal was: but it was answered, that the grantee could make no demand on the co-surety, because he must by so doing enforce a payment from the principal contrary to the agreement. Here the plaintiff having taken a new security from the acceptor has charged the defendant.

Clark v. Devlin, 3 Bos. & Pul. 365. Per Lord Alvanley, C. J. "If the holder of a bill without the knowledge of the other parties give time to the acceptor, he cannot afterwards call on the other parties without an injury to the person to whom he has given time. In such case therefore those parties will be discharged. But a man is not bound to seek his remedy against the acceptor if he sign judgment against him, he will not be bound to prosecute that judgment. Per Chambre, J. the acceptor of a bill is to be considered as the principal debtor, and the other parties as sureties only; the holder therefore who is the creditor ought not so to negotiate with the acceptor as to prejudice the remaining parties to the bill. On this ground *English v. Darley* proceeded. If a creditor give time to the principal debtor, the collateral securities are discharged, both in law and equity. But in this case defendant having assented to the payment by instalments, cannot now complain of being prejudiced by the conduct of the holder. Rule discharged.

Gould v. Robson, 8 East. 576. The holder of a bill upon its becoming due received part payment of the acceptor, and took a bill from him at a future short date for the remainder, and agreed to keep the original bill in his hands in the interim as a security. He now sued the defendant as indorser, and this was relied upon as a defence. Lord Ellenborough thought at the trial, that it did not amount to giving time to the acceptor, and the plaintiff had a verdict; but upon a motion for a new trial, he and the court were satisfied that it did, and a nonsuit was entered. Lord Ellenborough said, "How can a man be said not to be injured, if his means of suing be abridged by

sue as long as he chooses; but he must not so agree to give time to the acceptor, so as to preclude himself from suing him, and suspend his remedy against him in prejudice of the drawer and indorsers¹. This rule is founded on the principle that the holder by entering into a binding engagement to give time to the acceptor, renders him less active in endeavouring to satisfy the bill than he probably could otherwise be, if he continued liable to an immediate action at the suit of the holder; besides, if a holder agree to give indulgence for a certain period of time to any one of the parties to a bill, this takes away his right to call on that party for payment before the period expires, and not only to call upon him, but on all the intermediate parties; for otherwise if he were to oblige them to pay the bill, they could immediately resort against the very person whom the holder has indulged, which would be inconsistent with his agreement². This is a rule of law not confined to bills of

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the act of another?" If the plaintiff's holders of the bill had called immediately upon the defendant for payment, as soon as the bill was dishonored, they might immediately have sued the acceptor and the other parties on the bill. I had some doubts on the trial, but am inclined to think now that time was given. The holder has the dominion of the bill at the time: he may make what arrangements he pleases with the acceptor, but he does that at his peril; and if he thereby alter the situation of any other person on the bill, to the prejudice of that person, he cannot afterwards proceed against him. As to the taking part payment, no person can object to it, because it is in aid of all the others who are liable upon the bill; but here the holder did something more, he took a new bill from the acceptor, and was to keep the original bill till the other was paid. That is an agreement that in the mean time the original bill should not be enforced; such is at least the effect of the agreement, and therefore I think time was given.

Smith and others v. Beckett, 13 East. 187. Where the defendant lent his indorsement on a promissory note to the drawer, which note was payable on demand, for the purpose of enabling him to raise the money on that security from the plaintiffs, his bankers, who agreed to make advances thereon for six months, held, that the bankers, who had renewed their advances at the end of the six months without the knowledge or consent of the defendant, could not recover upon the note thus indorsed by him without proof of demand on the drawer, and a regular notice of the dishonour to the defendant.

¹ Per Lord Eldon, in *Wright v. Simpson*, 6 Ves. jun. 734.—See also *Trent Navigation Company v. Harley*, 10 East. 40.

² Per Bayley, J. in *Claridge v. Dallas*, 4 M. & S. 232.

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exchange; for if the obligee of a bond with a surety, without communication with the surety, take notes from the principal, and give further time, the surety is discharged¹. The acceptor of a bill is primarily liable; and the drawer and indorsers may be considered in the nature of sureties for the performance of his act². Therefore the taking of a bond, or any security, payable at a future day, from the acceptor of a bill, or maker of a note, without the assent of the other parties thereto, would discharge them from liability³; and where the indorsee of a bill, having sued the acceptor to judgment and taken out execution, received of him a sum of money in part payment, and took his security for the residue, with the exception of only a nominal sum, it was holden, that he was thereby precluded from afterwards suing the indorser⁴; and the letting such acceptor out of cus-

¹ *Rees v. Berrington*, 2 Ves. jun. 540.—6 Ves. jun. 805.—*Ship v. Stacy*, 3 Atk. 91.—Bac. Abr. Obligation; and *Id.* 7 vol. tit. Obligation, 506.—*English v. Darley*, 2 Bos. & P. 62.

Rees v. Berrington, 2 Ves. jun. 540. Rees became surety in a joint and several bond, conditioned for the payment to the obligee of a certain sum, with interest, by two instalments; the first on the 31st December, 1789, and the second on the 31st December, 1790. In September, 1790, the whole sum being unpaid, the obligee took promissory notes from the principal obligor for payment of the debt by instalments at extended periods, which notes were afterwards exchanged for others, payable at more distant days. This arrangement was without the knowledge of Rees. The principal obligor afterwards became bankrupt, and the executor of the obligee sued Rees the surety. And on a bill filed for an injunction, the Chancellor held, that the surety was discharged by this indulgence having been given without his consent to the principal. *Vide* 2 Bos. & P. 62.

See also *Willison v. Whitaker*, 2 Marsh. Rep. 383.—*Brickwood & Anniss*, 5 Taunt. 614. The plaintiff after final judgment having taken bills payable at a future day, in satisfaction of the debt, the court directed an exoneration to be entered on the bail piece; because the principle is, that where the plaintiff has disarmed himself from proceeding against the principal, the bail are discharged; but where he has not by taking a security, payable at a future day, precluded himself from proceeding, he may, although he has agreed without consideration to give time to the principal, proceed against the bail. See also *Thomas v. Young*, 15 East. 617.

² *Clark v. Devlin*, 3 Bos. & P. 366. ante, 372.

³ *Claxton v. Swift*, 3 Mod. 87.

⁴ *English v. Darley*, 2 Bos. & P. 61.—3 Esp. Rep. 49. S. C. post, 376. *Clark v. Devlin*, 3 Bos. & P. 363, post, 376.—*Walwyn v. St. Quintin*, 1 Bos. & P. 652, post, 378.—*Ex parte Wilson*, 11 Ves. jun. 411, post.

tody on a *ca. sa.* would have the same effect¹; and in a late case it was held, that if the holder of a bill of exchange when due, after taking part payment from the acceptor, agrees to take a new acceptance from him for the remainder, payable at a future day, and that in the mean time the holder should keep the original bill in his hands as a security; such agreement amounts to giving time and a new credit to the acceptor, and discharges the indorser, who was no party to such agreement, though the drawer might have had no effects in the hands of the acceptor². Similar indulgence to a drawer or a prior indorser, would also discharge all subsequent parties³. And where the defendant lent his indorsement on a promissory note to the drawer, which note was payable on demand, to enable him to raise money on that security from the plaintiff, his banker, who agreed to make advances thereon for six months, it was held, that the bankers, who had renewed their advances at the end of the six months without the knowledge of the defendant, could not recover upon the note thus indorsed by him, without proof of the demand on the drawer and a regular notice of the dishonour to the defendant; and the taking a cognovit, payable by instalments at a distant time, might discharge the drawer⁴.

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¹ Id. *ibid.*

² Gould v. Robson, 8 East. 576. ante, 372, 3.

³ Id. *ibid.*

Per Bayley, J. in Claridge v. Dalton, 4 M. & S. 252, 3.

Smith v. Knox, 3 Esp. Rep. 46. Per Lord Eldon. "It is said that the holder may discharge any of the indorsers after taking them in execution, and yet have recourse to the others. I doubt the law as stated so generally. I am disposed to be of opinion, that if the holder discharge a prior indorser, he will find it difficult to recover against a subsequent one."

So also in English v. Darley, 2 Bos. & P. 62. Lord Eldon, after adverting to the inaccuracy of the marginal abstract of the case of Hayling v. Mulhall, said, "had the plaintiff first sued a prior indorser, and discharged him from execution, it would have afforded a sufficient objection to an action against a subsequent indorser." See Hayling v. Mulhall, 2 Bl. Rep. 1235. post, 381.

⁴ Smith v. Becket, 13 East. 187.—The King v. Sheriff of Surrey, 1 Taunt. 161.—Smith v. Knox, 3 Esp. Rep. 46.—Bayl. 155. and Willison v. Whitaker, 2 Marsh. Rep. 383, ante, 374.

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But if there be any evidence of the assent of the drawer or indorser to the security being taken from the acceptor, or if, after notice of the time having been given, the drawer or indorser promise to pay, he is precluded from taking advantage of the indulgence to the acceptor¹. Thus where the holder of a bill of exchange, of which payment had been refused, informed the drawer of his intention to take security from the acceptor, and the drawer answered, "you may do as you like, for I am discharged for want of notice;" and it appeared that due notice had been given, it was held that this amounted to an assent on the part of the drawer, and that the holder might still sue him, after taking security from the acceptor². But in a subsequent case³, where the holder of a bill of exchange, on its becoming due, allowed the acceptor to renew it without consulting the indorser, but the indorser afterwards said to the acceptor, "it was the best thing that could be done," it was held, that the indorser was nevertheless discharged, because this was not a recognition of the terms granted by the holder to the acceptor, but such approbation

¹ Bayl. 153, 4.—Clark v. Devlin, 3 Bos. & P. 363. Atkinson, the acceptor of a bill, having been arrested by the holder, offered him a warrant of attorney for the amount of the bill, payable by instalments. This offer the holder mentioned to the defendant the drawer, proposing to accept of it, who said, "you may do as you like, for I have had no notice of the non-payment." In fact he had had notice. The court held, that this amounted to an assent on the part of the defendant to the security being taken; and therefore that the defendant was not discharged by this indulgence to the acceptor. Selwyn, 4th ed. 348.

Stevens v. Lynch, 12 East. Rep. 38. The defence in this action, which was by an indorsee against the drawer of a bill, was, that the plaintiff had given time to the acceptor, in answer to which it was proved that the defendant knew of such time having been given; but that conceiving himself to be still liable, three months after the bill became due, he said to the plaintiff, "I know I am liable, and if Jones (the acceptor) does not pay it, I will." Upon this Lord Ellenborough directed a verdict to be found for the plaintiff; and upon a motion for a new trial, the court held the direction right, and refused a rule.

² Id. *ibid*.

³ Withall v. Masterman, 2 Campb. 179.—Selwyn, 4th ed. 348.

must be considered as referring to the acceptor of the bill to whom the arrangement was obviously advantageous, Of the effect of giving time to or releasing the acceptor, &c.

In the instances before stated¹, where the laches of the holder, in not giving notice of the non-acceptance of a bill, will be excused by the circumstance of the drawer, indorser, &c. not having effects in the hands of the drawee, such parties would also not be discharged by the holder's giving time to or taking security from the acceptor². Therefore the holder for a valuable consideration of a bill accepted for the accommodation of the drawer, may prove the bill under a commission against the drawer, notwithstanding he has taken security from the acceptor and given him time for payment³. So if the acceptor of a bill be merely an agent for the drawer, who is the purchaser of goods, the holder's renewing the bill without the consent of the drawer will not discharge him⁴.

¹ Ante, 258 to 271. 301 to 309.

² *Walwyn v. St. Quintin*, 1 Bos. & P. 652.—2 Esp. Rep. 516, 7. S. C.—*Gould v. Robson*, 8 East. 576. Ante, 372, 3.—Ex parte Holden, Cooke's Bank. L. 167.

Collott v. Haigh, 3 Campb. 281. This was an action on a bill of exchange, drawn by the defendant upon J. Dufton, accepted by him, and indorsed to the plaintiffs. It appeared that when the bill became due the plaintiffs gave time for some weeks to Dufton, upon his lodging some security in their hands, which did not turn out to be available; but it was likewise proved, that Dufton had accepted the bill merely for the defendant's accommodation, without any consideration whatsoever. Lord Ellenborough ruled, that under these circumstances the defendant was not discharged by the time given to the acceptor. The drawer of an accommodation bill must be considered as the principal debtor, and the acceptor only in the light of a surety. The reason why notice of the dishonor of a bill must in general be given to the drawer, is, that he may recoup himself by withdrawing his effects from the hands of the acceptor, and he is discharged by time given to the acceptor without his consent, because his remedy over against the acceptor may thus be materially affected. But where the bill is accepted merely for the accommodation of the drawer, he has no effects to withdraw, and no remedy to pursue, when compelled to pay. He therefore suffers no injury either by want of notice, or by time being given to the acceptor; and in an action on the bill, he cannot defend himself upon either of these grounds. Verdict for plaintiff.

³ Id. *ibid.* Ex parte Holden, Cooke's B. L. 167.—1 Mont. 153.—Cullen, 100.

⁴ *Clark and another v. Noel*, 3 Campb. 411. Held that the purchaser of goods, to be paid for by bill upon his agent, is not dis-

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After regular notice of the non-payment of a bill, the holder may tacitly *forbear* to sue the acceptor, provided he do not *agree* to give a precise time¹, and may receive *proposals* for a security without prejudicing the claims on the other parties², and it has even been holden, that agreeing (after a bill has become due and been regularly protested for non-payment, and notice thereof given) *not to press the acceptor*, will not discharge the drawer³. And when the holders of a bill of exchange which had been refused payment by the acceptor, gave notice thereof to the drawers, but informed them that they had reason to believe it would be taken up in a few days, and offered to retain the bill till the end of the week unless they received their instructions to the contrary, it was held that such conduct did not discharge the drawer, al-

charged by the seller taking a renewal of the bill, without giving him notice, if the agent had not funds in the hands to pay the bill when it became due. Lord Ellenborough was of opinion that Aaron was only in the nature of the surety, and remarked, that as he was not in cash to pay the bill when it became due, it was rather in favour of the defendant to allow it to be renewed. The debt was originally due from the defendant, and the security taken from his agent could be no extinction of it. It was impossible to say the purchaser of goods could be discharged under these circumstances by want of notice like the drawer of a bill of exchange. The plaintiffs had a verdict, which in the ensuing term, upon a motion for a new trial, was approved of by the court.

¹ Second resolution in *Walwyn v. St. Quintin*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 652.—Selw. N. P. 4th ed. 347.—*Wright v. Simpson*, 6 Ves. jun. 734.

² *Walwyn v. St. Quintin*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 652. In an action by indorsers against the drawer of a bill, it appeared that after the bill had become due and been protested for non-payment, though no notice thereof had been given to the defendant, he having no effects in the hands of the acceptor. The plaintiffs received part of the money on account from the indorser, and that to an application from the acceptor, stating that it was probable he should be able to pay at a future period, they returned for answer, that they would not press him. It was urged that either of these facts discharged the drawer. But the court after argument and time taken to consider, held that they did not, and awarded the *postea* to the plaintiffs. Eyre, C.J. said, that had this forbearance to sue the acceptor, taken place before noting and protesting for non-payment, so that the bill had not been demanded when it was due, it is clear that the drawer would have been discharged; it would have been giving a new credit to the acceptor. But that after protest for payment, and notice to the drawer, or an equivalent to a notice, a right to sue the drawer had attached, another holder was not bound to sue the acceptor, he might therefore forbear to sue him. See 2 Esp. Rep. 515. S. C.—Manning's Index, 72.

³ *Walwyn v. St. Quintin*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 652. *supra*.—Bayl. 154.

though no further notice of non-payment was given¹; and even an express agreement not to sue, made after giving notice of non-payment, but without sufficient consideration, and without taking any new security, being *nudum pactum*, will not discharge the other parties². And though we have just seen, that taking a cognovit payable at a distant time, might discharge the drawer and indorsers³; it would be otherwise if a cognovit or warrant of attorney be taken without giving time⁴.

Of the effect of giving time to or releasing the acceptor.

¹ Forster and another v. Jurdison and another, 16 East. 105. The plaintiffs were indorsees of a bill of exchange drawn by the defendants on J. L. and accepted by him. The bill was duly presented for payment and dishonoured, but the acceptor requested the plaintiffs to keep the bill a week and he should be able to pay it. The plaintiffs gave the defendants notice of the dishonour, and of the acceptor's request, and added they would keep the bill till the end of the week, unless they heard from them to the contrary. It was contended for the defendants, that the plaintiffs should have given them notice at the end of the week of the bill not having been paid, and by which laches they were discharged. Wood, B. before whom the cause was tried, was of that opinion, and a verdict was found for the defendants. A rule for a new trial was afterwards obtained, and on cause shewn, the court were of opinion, that the plaintiffs had done every thing which was incumbent upon them, to give themselves a title under the bill, and that by their letter, they at most took upon themselves an agency on the part of the defendants to get payment of the bill, and in that character they continued to hold it for the defendants, and that after the notice received by the defendant the latter were bound to look after the acceptor, and the rule was made absolute.

² Semble Walwyn v. St. Quintin, 1 Bos. & Pul. 655.—Dean v. Newhall, 8 T. R. 168.—Fitch v. Sutton, 5 East. 230.

Arundle Bank v. Goble, K. B. 1817. Action by indorsee against drawer of a bill. The plaintiffs were the holders when the bill became due, and duly presented the same to the acceptor for payment, and wrote a letter to the defendant in due time, informing him of the dishonour, but that from the promise of the acceptor they expected the same would be shortly paid. Afterwards the acceptor applied to them for indulgence for some months. They in reply wrote to the acceptor, that they would give him the time, but that they should expect interest. The cause was tried on the home circuit, before Burrough, J. when it was contended by Nolan and Comyn for the defendant, that this indulgence to the acceptor discharged the drawer; but the jury found a verdict for the plaintiffs. On motion to the court of K. B. for a new trial, the court held, that as no fresh security was taken from the acceptor, the agreement of the plaintiffs to wait without consideration did not discharge the drawer, because the acceptor might, notwithstanding such agreement, be sued at the next instant, and that the understanding that interest should be paid by the acceptor made no difference. Rule refused. See also Willison v. Whitaker, 2 Marsh. 383; and Brickwood v. Anniss, 5 Taunt. 614, ante, 374; and Bayl. 154.

³ Ante, 375.

⁴ Ayrey v. Davenport, 2 New. Rep. 474.

Of receiving part
payment of the ac-
ceptor, &c.

It appears to have been holden, that if on presentment for payment, the holder *take less* than the whole sum due thereon of the acceptor, or indorser, in part satisfaction, without the assent to the other parties to the bill, he thereby discharges them, because, as it was said, it is an election to receive payment from the acceptor¹. But it is now settled, that the holder may receive part payment from the acceptor, or indorser, and may sue the other parties for the residue, provided he do not also give time to the acceptor for the payment, of such residue²; and if the holder of a joint and several promissory note, enter up judgment by cognovit against one of the makers and levy part under a fi. fa., this is no discharge of the other³.

It is said, that if the drawee have on presentment for acceptance, engaged to pay only a part, and the holder has given notice of such partial acceptance to the other parties, he should, when the bill becomes due, receive of the drawee the sum for which he accepted, and cause a protest again to be made for non-payment of the remaining sum⁴.

Effect of indul-
gence as to prior
parties.

Though the giving time to an acceptor, or indorser, will thus in general discharge all subsequent indorsers, who would be entitled to resort to the party indulged, the giving time to a subsequent indorser will not discharge a prior indorser⁵, and therefore the holder of a bill may

¹ Tassel v. Lewis, 2 Lord Raym. 744.—Kellock v. Robinson, 2 Str. 745.—Sel. Ca. 147. S. C.—Bul. Ni. Pri. 273.—Hull v. Pitfield, 1 Wils. 48.

² Gould v. Robson, 8 East. Rep. 580, ante, 372, 3.—Walwyn v. St. Quintin, 1 Bos. & Pul. 652, ante, 378.—Bul. Ni. Pri. 271. 3. 5.—Mar. 86.—Bayl. 154.

³ Ayrey v. Davenport, 2 New. Rep. 474.—Ex parte Gifford, 6 Ves. jun. 805.

⁴ Mar. 68, 85, 86.

⁵ Claridge v. Dalton, 4 M. & S. 232.—Hayling v. Mullhall, 2 Bla. Rep. 1235.—English v. Darley, 2 Bos. & Pul. 61.—Smith v. Knox, 3 Esp. Rep. 47.—Nadin v. Battie, 5 East. 147.; and see ex parte Barclay, 7 Ves. jun. 597.—Bayl. 151.—Selw. 4th ed. 348.

Claridge v. Dalton, 4 M. & S. 232, 3. Per Bayley, J. "If the holder gave time to the payee he cannot call on the indorsers; but this rule does not apply to a party lower down on the bill, as if the fifth indorsee were to give time to the last indorser for six months,

sue a prior indorser after having let a subsequent indorser whom he had taken in execution, out of gaol, on a letter of licence, without paying the debt ¹. And it has been decided, that the holder of an accommodation note, who has received a composition from, and who has covenanted not to sue the payee, for whose accommodation the note was made, may notwithstanding sue the maker, though on payment of it he will have a right of action against the payee ²; and if the holder release to the payee all claims in respect of the note, not knowing that he is a surety, this will not discharge the maker ³. And it has long been settled,

Effect of indulgence as to prior parties.

proposing in the mean while to endeavour to get payment for the indorsers lower down on the bill : this might well be done."

Hayling v. Mullhall, 2 Bla. Rep. 1235. A bill was indorsed by Sheridan to Boon, and by him to the plaintiff: he sued Boon and took him in execution, but discharged him upon a letter of license. He then sued Sheridan, for whom the defendant became bail, and upon an action against the defendant, he contended that the debt was satisfied by the imprisonment of Boon, but the court was clear it was not, and Mullhall was obliged to pay the money. See the observations on the error in the margin, analysis of this case, in *English v. Darley*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 62, ante, 380.

¹ *Hayling v. Mullhall*, 2 Bla. Rep. 1235, supra.

² *Mallet v. Thompson*, 5 Esp. Rep. 178.

³ *Carstairs and others, assignees, &c. v. Rolleston and others*, 5 Taunt. 551.—1 Marsh. 207. To an action by the indorsees of promissory note against the drawers, the defendant pleaded, that he drew the note as surety only for the payee, and that the plaintiff had released the payee from all claims in respect of the said note, without alledging that the plaintiff had notice of the want of consideration between the defendant and payee. Held that the release did not operate as an extinguishment of the consideration which the plaintiff had given to the payee for notice, so as to make it a note without consideration between himself and the defendant, and therefore that the plea was bad on general demurrer. Gibbs, C. J. This case has been argued on the only ground on which it could be supported for a moment, and ingenuity has furnished an argument which I had not discovered. The object of the defendant was to accommodate the payee, and I admit that the payee could not have sued the makers of the note, nor could an indorsee have done so, unless he had given consideration for it. But it is insisted that the release which has been given by the bankrupts, who were indorsees to the original payee, operates as an extinguishment of the consideration which they gave for it, and therefore puts them in the condition of indorsees without consideration. I am not of that opinion; the indorsement was for a valuable consideration, and the indorsees had the security of the defendants as makers of the note for their debt, and though they released the original payee, they still retain their remedy against the drawers. Whatever might have been the case, if the bankrupts had had notice, that the instrument was given

Effect of indorsement as to prior parties.

that if the holder of an accommodation bill receive a part from the drawer, and takes a promise from him upon the back of the bill, for the payment of the residue at an enlarged time, it is clear that such act will not discharge the acceptor¹. And though in one case it was held, that if the indorsee of a bill of exchange having notice that it was accepted without consideration, receive part payment from the drawer and give him time to pay the residue, he thereby discharges the acceptor²; yet in subsequent cases a dif-

originally without consideration, as to which I give no opinion, I am decided, that, as the matter now stands, the plaintiff's right of action remains against the defendants. The rest of the court concurred in the opinion of the C. J. Judgment for the plaintiffs.

¹ *Ellis v. Gallindo*, cited in *Dingwall v. Dunster*, Dougl. 250.

² *Laxton v. Peat*, 2 Campb. 185.—Bayl. 153.

Laxton v. Peat, 2 Campb. 185. Indorsee of a bill against the acceptor. It appeared that the bill had been accepted for the accommodation of the drawer, which circumstance was known to the plaintiff, who gave value for the bill. When the bill became due the plaintiff received part payment from the drawer, and gave him time to pay the remainder, without the concurrence of the defendant. Lord Ellenborough. This being an accommodation bill within the knowledge of all the parties, the acceptor can only be considered a surety for the drawer, and in the case of simple contracts, the surety is discharged by time being given without his concurrence to the principal. The defendant's remedy over is materially affected by the new agreement, into which the plaintiff entered with the drawer after the bill was due. The case is exactly the same as if the bill had been drawn by the defendant, and excepted by Hunt, in consideration of a debt due. According to many authorities, the defendant upon that supposition would have been discharged by the time given to Hunt; and the principle of these authorities applies with equal strength to the facts actually given in evidence. Plaintiff nonsuited. But this doctrine seems to have been disputed by Mr. J. Gibbs, in the case of *Kerrison v. Cooke*, 3 Campb. 362, and he denied the distinction which has been made between an acceptor in the ordinary course of business, and an accommodation acceptor. And Lord Eldon (in 11 Ves. jun. 411) also objected to any such distinction, and in the case of *Anderson v. Cleveland*, 13 East. Rep. 430 (notes), Lord Mansfield seems to have been of opinion, that a neglect to call upon the acceptor affords no defence, saying that the maker of a note, and the acceptor of a bill remain liable; the acceptance is proof of the acceptor's having effects in hand, and he ought never to part with them unless he is sure that the bill has been paid by the drawer. The same doctrine has been maintained in the case of *Dingwall v. Dunster*, Dougl. 235, 247. The same doctrine was entertained by Lord Ellenborough in *Mallet v. Thompson*, 5 Esp. Rep. 178. Where the holder of a note, knowing that it had been made for the accommodation of Dwigg, signed a composition deed releasing Dwigg, without the maker's concurrence. Also in the case of the *Trent Navigation Company v. Harley*, 10 East. 34, the court appeared to have considered

ferent doctrine has been established ¹. We have seen, ^{Effect of indulgence as to prior parties.} however, that the acceptor of an accommodation bill

that the neglect of the obligee of a bond to compel the principal to account, did not release the surety from his liability.

¹ *Kerrison v. Cooke*, 3 Campb. 362.—*Ragget v. Axmore*, 4 Taunt. 730.—*Fentum v. Pocock*, 5 Taunt. 192.—1 Marsh. 14. S. C.—*Carstairs v. Rolleston*, 2 Taunt. 551.—1 Marsh. 507. S. C.—*Mallet v. Thompson*, 5 Esp. Rep. 178.

Kerrison v. Cooke, 3 Campb. 362. Indorsee against acceptor. The plaintiff after notice that the bill was accepted for the accommodation of the drawer, gave time to the drawee, without concurrence of the defendant, and yet it was held, the plaintiff was entitled to recover. Per Gibbs, J. admitting *Laxton v. Peat* to be law, of which grave doubts have been entertained, the present case may be distinguished from it. Lord Ellenborough's decision there proceeded upon the ground that the drawer, according to the understanding of the different parties to the bill, was considered as primarily liable, and was in the first instance looked to for payment. But here payment is demanded of the acceptor, when the bill becomes due, and he then promises to pay it. This shews that he was held liable, as in the common case of the acceptor of a bill of exchange, and I am of opinion that he was not discharged by time given, under these circumstances, to the drawer. I am sorry the term accommodation bill ever found its way into the law, or that parties were allowed to get rid of the obligations they profess to contract, by putting their names to negotiable securities.

Fentum v. Pocock and another, 5 Taunt. 192.—1 Marsh. 14. S. C. Indorsee against acceptor. When the bill became due, it was duly presented for payment and refused, and the plaintiff was then informed that it was an accommodation bill, and that defendant had no effects of the drawer. The plaintiff received from the drawer £65, in part discharge of the bill, and afterwards, without the concurrence of the acceptor, took a cognovit from the drawer, payable by instalments, and it was held that this did not discharge the acceptor. Per Mansfield, C. J. No doubt if the defendant can succeed in establishing the principle that we must so subvert and pervert the situation of the parties, as to make the acceptor merely a surety, and the drawer the principal, the consequence contended for must follow. This case of *Laxton v. Peat*, certainly is the first in which it was ever supposed that the acceptor of a bill of exchange was not the first person, and the last person compellable to pay that bill to the holder of it, and that any thing could discharge the acceptor except payment or a release; and I never before knew there was any difference between an acceptance given for an accommodation and an acceptance for value. When I first saw that case in Campbell, I was in the same state as Mr. Justice Gibbs, and doubted a great deal whether it could be law. The case of *Collet v. Haigh* must be considered not as a separate decision, but as resting on the authority of the former. It is utterly impossible for any Judge, whatever his learning and abilities may be, to decide at once rightly upon every point that comes before him, at *Nisi Prius*, and whoever looks through Campbell's Reports, will be greatly surprised to see among such an immense number of questions, many of them of the most important kind, which came before that noble and learned Judge, not that there are mistakes, but that he is, in by far the most of the causes, so wonderfully right, beyond the proportion of any other Judges. But in this case we think that we are bound to differ from him, and to hold that it is impossible for us to consider the acceptor of an accommodation bill in the light of the surety for the

Effect of indulgence as to prior parties.

may be discharged by the holders, who were bankers of the drawer, receiving more than sufficient to cover it¹.

Of proving under a commission, or against an insolvent debtor, and of compounding with the acceptor.

If, when the bill becomes due, the acceptor be a *bankrupt*, the holder may, without the assent of the other parties, *prove* the bill under the commission, and receive a dividend or dividends, and such conduct will not discharge the other parties to the bill from their respective liabilities to him, if he have given regular notice of non-payment²; so the circumstances of one of the parties to a bill having been charged in execution, and discharged as an insolvent, does not preclude the holder from proceeding against the other parties³.

payment of the drawer, and that we cannot therefore say that he is discharged by the indulgence shewn to the drawer; certainly the paying the respect to accommodation bills is not what one would wish to do, seeing the mischiefs arising from them. One might find here a very important distinction between this case and the case decided by Lord Ellenborough, namely, that here the person taking the bill did not, at the time when he took it, know that it was an accommodation bill, and that if he did not then know it, what does it signify what came to his knowledge afterwards if he took the bill for a valuable consideration, but it is better not to rest this case upon that foundation; for as it appears to me, if the holder had known in the clearest manner at the time of his taking the bill, that it was merely an accommodation bill, it would make no manner of difference, for he who accepts a bill whether for value or to serve a friend, makes himself in all events liable as the acceptor, and nothing can discharge him but payment or a release. The case before Gibbs, J. has shaken this decision in *Laxton v. Peat*, and we think rightly; the case cited *English v. Darley*, is not applicable, where the giving time to an acceptor was held to be a discharge of an indorser, who stands only in the situation of a surety for the first. The rule therefore which has been obtained for setting aside the verdict and entering a nonsuit must be discharged.

¹ Ante, 370, n. 3.

² See observations in *English v. Darley*, ante, 371, 2.—*Ex parte Wilson*, 11 Ves. jun. 412.—*Stock v. Mawson*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 286.

³ *Macdonald v. Bovington*, 4 T. R. 825. A bill drawn by Macdonald on Bovington, was indorsed to Thompson, who charged Bovington in execution on it. Bovington was discharged as an insolvent, then Thompson sued Macdonald and recovered. Macdonald paid the bill, sued Bovington, and charged him in execution, and on a rule nisi to discharge him and cause shown, it was urged that Bovington had satisfied the bill by being charged in execution at the suit of Thompson. Sed per Lord Kenyon, nothing can be clearer than that he has not, it was a mere formal satisfaction as to Thompson, not like actual payment, and when Macdonald was obliged to pay the bill, a new cause of action arose against the defendant by the payment, without regard to what passed in the former action. And per Buller, J. the consequence would be, that because the drawer was obliged to pay the holder, the acceptor would be discharged without paying either. Rule discharged. See also Bayl. 152.

But if the holder of a bill *compound* with the acceptor or other party, without the assent of the drawer, or other subsequent parties, he thereby releases them from their liabilities, if they had effects in the hands of the acceptor or prior indorser; for there is a material distinction between taking a sum of money in part satisfaction of a debt, as in the case of a dividend, and taking a sum in satisfaction of such debt, where the party has an option to refuse less than the whole, as where he compounds with the acceptor, and thereby deprives all other parties to the bill of the right of resorting to him ¹. And though the agent of the holder by mistake signed a composition deed in favour of the acceptor, thinking that the proceedings were a bankruptcy, yet it was decided that the drawer was discharged ². And where the indorser of a bill of ex-

Of proving under a commission, or against an insolvent, and of compounding with the acceptor, &c.

¹ Ex parte Wilson, 11 Ves. jun. 410. infra, note 2.—Cooke's Bank. L. 168.—Cullen, 158, 9. and cases there cited.—Ex parte Smith, 3 Bro. C. C. 1.; see observations on English v. Darley, ante, 371, and post, Chapter on Bankruptcy.—1 Mont. 546.

Ex parte Smith, 3 Bro. C. C. 1. Lewis and Potter indorsed certain bills and notes to Esdaile, and became bankrupt. Esdaile proved the amount of the bills and notes under their commission, and afterwards received a composition from the acceptors of the bills, and the makers of the notes, and gave them a full discharge without the knowledge of the assignees of Lewis and Potter. On petition by the assignees to have the debt in respect of the bills and notes expunged, the chancellor held, that by discharging the acceptors and makers without the consent of the indorser, the latter was discharged also. To the same effect is the case of ex parte Wilson, 11 Ves. 410. See also Smith v. Knox, 3 Esp. N. P. 46.

In a case where an action was brought by several partners, as indorsees of a promissory note against the defendant as indorser, and it appeared in evidence that one of the partners had discharged a *prior* indorser by a deed of composition, it was holden, that such deed operated as a release to the defendant. Ellison and others v. Dezell, Bristol Summer Assizes, 1811, Selw. N. P. 4th ed. 348.

² Ex parte Wilson, 11 Ves. jun. 110. In July, 1799, Andrew Paul Pourtales and Andrew George Pourtales, drew two bills of exchange upon Claessen, Kieckhoefer, and Co. of Hamburgh, at three months after date, for £350 and £250, payable to the order of the petitioner, for a valuable consideration. The bills were accepted: but before they were due, the acceptors stopped payment; and the bills were returned protested. The drawers afterwards became bankrupt. The petitioner's proof in respect of the bills was objected to, until he should have had recourse to the estate of the acceptors, and have received such dividend as should be payable from their estate. The petitioner sent the bills to his agent at Hamburgh for that purpose; who received a dividend from the estate of the acceptors; and was

Of proving under a commission, or against an insolvent, and of compounding with an acceptor, &c.

change becomes bankrupt, and the holder proves the amount of the bill under his commission, and after-

afterwards admitted to prove the residue of his debt under the commission against the drawers : but before any dividend was received under that proof, it appeared that no proceeding in nature of a commission of bankruptcy had issued against the acceptors, but their affairs were settled by a deed of composition, which the petitioner's agent had signed upon receiving the dividend in full discharge of the estate of the acceptors. The petition prayed, that the dividends under the commission should be paid to the petitioner. It was admitted there was no fraud ; but the deed of composition was signed, and the dividend received by his agent without inquiry. The petition stated, that the assignees and the solicitor under the commission pressed the petitioner to apply and receive what might be obtained from the estate of the acceptors, representing, that he should prove for the residue ; but, upon the affidavits there was no special undertaking ; and the transaction appeared to originate in a mistake of all parties ; supposing the proceeding at Hamburg was in the nature of bankruptcy. The Lord Chancellor. The law is not disputed : it was very well settled by Lord Thurlow upon great deliberation, that, if a person, having the security of drawer and acceptor, with effects, (a distinction much to be regretted, having given very mischievous authenticity to accommodation paper) gives the acceptor time, and much more if the holder fully discharges the acceptor by composition, the holder can no longer make a demand upon the drawer, whether solvent or not ; for this reason, that if the drawer could come upon the acceptor afterwards, the acceptor does not receive any benefit by the composition. The nature of the contract must therefore be, that the holder shall so deal with the bill that no third person shall come upon the acceptor in consequence of his act. I remember Lord Thurlow said, he had consulted the Judges upon that case. The decision is therefore of very high authority. Lord Rosslyn was struck with this consideration, that if the holder did all he could substantially do for the benefit of the persons whose names were upon the bill, that was all that could be expected, and held that he should if he really acted for the benefit of the other parties by taking a composition from the acceptor, go on against the drawer. But the misfortune of that is, that the other parties have a right by law to consider what is for their benefit, and are the judges of that ; and that has been carried so far, that the actual bankruptcy of the acceptor does not dispense with the necessity of notice to the drawer. That being the law, I felt a wish to find that part of the petition sustained, which represents, that the assignees and the solicitor pressed the petitioner to get what benefit he could in the affairs at Hamburg, intimating that he should afterwards prove under the commission. But the affidavits amount only to this, that the assignees and the solicitor, being persuaded that there was a bankruptcy at Hamburg, and a dividend actually set apart, so that in bankruptcy it was to be considered as received in diminution of the proof, do make that representation ; and that the petitioner shall receive dividends under that bankruptcy, before he comes to prove under the commission in this country, and the future dividends after proof. The petitioner accordingly sent to his agent at Hamburg, not enquiring whether the proceedings there was a bankruptcy or a composition, and the agent signed the deed of composition, which, in respect to payments under it, actually discharges the acceptor. The question, whether the petitioner was by fraud drawn in, or required to sign the deed of composition, is a mere

wards compounds with and discharges the acceptor without the consent of the assignees of the indorser, he thereby also discharges the indorser's estate, and the proof of his debt *must be expunged*¹.

Of proving under a commission, or against an insolvent, and of compounding with an acceptor.

On payment of the amount of a bill or note, it has been considered doubtful whether a person paying can insist on a *receipt* being given²; but now the party it should seem is entitled to demand a receipt³. It is usual to give a receipt on the back of the bill, and it has been said, that it is the duty of bankers to make some memorandum on bills and notes paid by them⁴. Such receipt need not, like other receipts, be stamped⁵. Where a part is paid, the person paying should take care to have the partial receipt marked on the bill, or he may, as it is said, be liable to pay the amount again to a bona fide indorsee⁶. Where an action was brought by the indorser of a bill (who had paid it to an indorsee) against the acceptor, he was nonsuited, although he produced the bill and protest, because he could not

4thly. Of the receipt for payment

question of fact. The whole was a common mistake, under the apprehension of all, that it was a bankruptcy; but, that being misapprehension, the consequence from not knowing what the act was, must fall upon the person, who did the act, who therefore having, by himself or his agent, accepted a composition in full of the whole demand, is unfortunately, but effectually, under circumstances, that exclude any demand by him against the drawer's estate.

¹ Ex parte Smith, 3 Bro. Ch. Ca. 1. supra, 385, note 1.—Cooke, 168, 9.—Cullen, 158, 9.—1 Montague, 546: and ex parte Wilson, 11 Ves. jun. 410. supra 385, note 2.

² Cole v. Blake, Peake Ni. Pr. 179, 180.—See Green v. Croft, 2 Hen. Bla. 30, 1, 2.

³ 43 Geo. 3. c. 126. s. 5.

⁴ Burbridge v. Manners, 3 Campb. 195.

⁵ 44 Geo. 3. c. 98. Schedule A.—23 Geo. 3. c. 49. s. 4 and 7. In 55 Geo. 3. c. 184, Schedule, part 1. title Receipts, the exemptions are as follows:

“Receipts or discharges given for any principal money due on exchequer bills.

“Receipts or discharges written upon promissory notes, bills of exchange, or drafts or orders for payment of money, duly stamped according to the laws in force at the date thereof, or upon bills of exchange drawn out of, but payable in, Great Britain.

“Receipts or discharges given upon bills or notes of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England.

“Letters by the General Post, acknowledging the safe arrival of any bills of exchange, promissory notes, or any other securities for money.”

⁶ Cooper v. Davies, 1 Esp. Rep. 463.

4thly. Of the receipt for payment.

produce a receipt for the money paid by him to the indorsee upon the protest, according to the custom of merchants; though Holt, C. J. seemed to be of opinion, that if the plaintiff could have proved payment by any evidence, it would have been sufficient¹. As it has been held, that a general receipt on the back of a bill of exchange is *prima facie* evidence of its having been paid by the acceptor², it would perhaps be advisable, in all cases when payment is made by a drawer or indorser, for the holder to state in the receipt by whom it was paid. In a late case, however, it was held, that the production of a bill of exchange, from the custody of the acceptor, is not *prima facie* evidence of his having paid it, without proof that it was once in circulation after it had been accepted; nor is payment to be presumed from a receipt indorsed on the bill, unless such receipt is shown to be in the hand-writing of a person entitled to demand payment³. But in another case⁴, it was held, that payment of money may be proved by the lender producing a check drawn by him upon his banker, in favour of the borrower, and indorsed by the latter, though without such indorsement it would not be evidence⁵.

Indorsements of partial payments made by the holder himself may, in some cases, be sufficient to take the case out of the Statute of Limitations. On this point Lord Ellenborough observed, "I have been at a loss to see the principle on which these receipts in the hand-writing of the creditor have sometimes been admitted as evidence against the debtor, and I am of opinion they cannot be properly admitted, unless they are proved to have been written at a time when the effect of them was clearly in contradiction to the writer's interest⁶."

¹ *Mendes v. Carreroon*, *Ld. Raym.* 742.

² *Scholey v. Walsby*, *Peake Rep.* 25; but see *Pfiel v. Van Battenberg*, 2 *Campb.* 439.

³ *Pfiel v. Van Battenberg*, 2 *Campb.* 439.

⁴ *Egg v. Barnett*, 3 *Esp. Rep.* 196.

⁵ *Aubert v. Walsh and another*, 4 *Taunt.* 298.

⁶ *Rose v. Bryant*, 2 *Campb.* 323.

It has been considered, with analogy to the presumption of payment of a bond after twenty years have elapsed, that a note payable on demand, and dated upwards of twenty years before the commencement of the action, may be presumed to have been paid; and that there will be a good defence under the general issue, the Statute of Limitations not having been pleaded¹. But in an action by the payee of a bill of exchange, accepted by the defendant for a valuable consideration, the evidence that the plaintiff had been discharged as an insolvent debtor after the bill became due, and had given in a blank schedule, is not enough to shew that the bill had been satisfied².

4thly, Of the receipt for payment.

Upon payment or satisfaction of a bill or note, the party making such payment should take care that the instrument be delivered up to him, or he may be liable to an action by a third person, who has been an holder of the bill before it became due, for the recovery of the amount³. And where there is a competition of evidence upon the question, whether the security has been satisfied by payment, it has been held, that the possession of that security by the claimant ought to turn the scale, and entitle him to a verdict⁴.

The effect of payment may in a great measure be collected from the immediately preceding paragraphs, and from what has been said with respect to a transfer of a bill of exchange after it has been paid⁵. If a person, under a misapprehension of facts, pay a bill which he was under no legal obligation to discharge, as where the person whom he paid had been guilty of laches, which, had the bill not been paid might, in an action brought upon it, have been a sufficient

5thly. Of the effect of payment, and of payment by mistake.

¹ Duffield v. Creed, 5 Esp. Rep. 52.—Tidd. 6th ed. 22 to 25.

² Hart v. Newman, 3 Campb. 13.

³ Buzzard and another v. Flecknoe, 1 Stark. 323.

⁴ Brombridge v. Osborne, 1 Stark. 374.

⁵ See also Hull v. Pitfield, 1 Wils. 46.—Bacon v. Searles, 1 Hen. Bl. 88. See the beginning of chap. 5, of the 2d part, post.

5thly. Of the effect of payment, and of payment by mistake.

ground of defence, he may, if prejudiced, perhaps, recover back the money, as had and received to his use'; but a bonâ fide holder, not guilty of laches, cannot in general be compelled to refund; and where the drawee of two forged bills accepted one and paid the other, it was decided, that he could not recover back the amount from the bonâ fide holder¹. But where the Victualling Office paid a forged victualling bill, and on discovery of the fraud called on the Bank of England, whom they had paid, and they called on the plaintiff, and he on the defendant, through whose hands it had passed, it was held, that the plaintiff was entitled to recover from him².

Where A. paid a sum of money into his bankers for a specific purpose, and the bankers clerk, by mistake, paid this money to B. who had no right to it, it was held, that A. could not maintain an action against B. to recover it back, but must sue the bankers, and they sue B.⁴ And it appears to have been con-

¹ Ante, 307.

² Ante, 307.—Price v. Neal, 1 Bl. Rep. 390.—3 Burr. 1354. observed on in Jones v. Ryde, 1 Marsh. 160.

Price v. Neale, 3 Burr. 1345.—1 Bl. Rep. 390. S. C. Two forged bills were drawn upon the plaintiff, which he accepted and paid. On discovering the forgery, he brought this action for money had and received, to recover back the money; but on a case reserved, the court held, that it would not lie; and Lord Mansfield said, it was incumbent on him to have been satisfied, before he accepted or paid them, that the bills were the drawer's hand. And in Smith v. Chester, 1 T. R. 655. Buller, J. says, when a bill is presented for acceptance, the acceptor looks to the hand-writing of the drawer, which he is afterwards precluded from disputing, and it is on that account that he is liable even though the bill is forged.

Smith and others v. Mercer, 6 Taunt. 76.—1 Marsh. 453. S. C. A bill of exchange, with a forged acceptance, purporting to be payable at the house of A. and Co. bankers in London, with whom the supposed acceptor keeps cash, is indorsed to B. for a valuable consideration; B. indorses it to his agent in London, who presents it on the 23d of April, at the house of A. and Co. for payment; A. and Co. pay it, and send it on the 30th of April to the supposed acceptor, who disavows it; A. and Co. immediately give notice of the forgery to B., and demand repayment, which B. refuses; all parties are ignorant of the fraud. Held, that A. and Co. by paying the bill, without ascertaining that the acceptance was genuine, were precluded from recovering the amount from B. *Chambre, J. dissentiente.*

³ Bruce v. Bruce, 1 Marsh. 165.—5 Taunt. 495. in notis.

⁴ Rogers v. Kelly, 3 Campb. 123.

sidered, that if the holder of a check, immediately after the death of the drawer, and before the banker is apprized of it, receive the amount, he will not be liable to refund, though in general the death of the drawer of the check is a countermand of the banker's authority to pay¹.

^{5thly.} Of the effect of payment, and of payment by mistake.

If bankers pay a cancelled check, drawn by a customer, under circumstances which ought to have excited their suspicion, and induced them to make inquiries before paying it², or if they pay a check after notice from their customer not to do so³, they cannot take credit for the amount in their accounts.

Where an action having been brought against the acceptor of a bill of exchange, it was agreed between the parties that the defendant should pay the costs, renew the bill, and give a warrant of attorney to secure the debt, and the defendant gave the warrant of attorney and renewed the bill, but did not pay the costs, it was held that the plaintiff might bring a fresh

¹ Tate v. Hilbert, 2 Ves. jun. 118.

² Scholey v. Ramsbottom, 2 Campb. 485.—Et Pothier Traite du Contrat de Change, part 1. ch. 4; sec. 99. et seq.

Scholey v. Ramsbottom and others, 2 Campb. 485. The defendants were bankers, with whom the plaintiff kept cash. This was an action to recover the balance of his account, and the only question was, whether they were entitled to take credit for a sum of £366. On Wednesday, the 20th September, 1809, the plaintiff being indebted to Messrs. Miller and Co. drew a check in their favor, in the following form:

“London, Sept. 20, 1809.

“Messrs. Ramsbottom, Newman, Ramsbottom, and Co. pay Messrs. Miller and Co. or bearer, three hundred and sixty-six pounds.

£366.

“ROBERT SCHOLEY.”

But finding that the sum was incorrect, he tore the check into four pieces, which he threw from him, and drew another in the same form for £360. The latter was presented for payment, and paid by the defendants the same day. On Monday, the 25th of September, the first check was likewise presented for payment by a person unknown. The four pieces into which it had been torn, were then neatly pasted together upon another slip of paper, but the rents were quite visible, and the face of the check was soiled and dirty. The defendants clerk paid it however without making any inquiries. Lord Ellenborough was of opinion, that, under these circumstances, bankers were not justified in paying a check, and the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for £366.

³ Ante, 192, 359, 360.

5thly. Of the effect of payment.

action on the first bill while the second was outstanding in the hands of an indorsee¹.

Though a bequest by a debtor to his creditor of a legacy greater than the amount of the debt, will in general be deemed a satisfaction for such debt, it has been held that a negotiable bill of exchange or note is not satisfied by a legacy²; but in another case it was held, that a debt on a note was discharged by an entry in the testator's hand, that the debtor should pay no interest, nor should he, the testator, take the principal, unless greatly distressed, it being proved that the testator died in affluent circumstances³. It has been recently decided⁴, that in an action for money had and received by the holder of a bill of exchange against a person who has received a sum of money from the acceptor to satisfy it, any defence may be set up which would have been available if the action had been brought against the acceptor himself. In trover for bank notes, to prove that they belonged to plaintiff, the evidence was, that they had been delivered out by a banker's clerk (to what person he could not tell) in payment of a check which was payable to the plaintiff or bearer, and this was held to be *prima facie* evidence of property⁵. If upon a bill becoming due, the party to it requests another to pay the amount out of a particular fund, and the latter agrees to comply with that request, in conse-

¹ *Norris v. Aylett*, 2 Campb. 329.

² *Carr v. Eastabrook*, 3 Ves. jun. 561.

³ *Aston and others executors v. Pye*, Common Pleas, Easter, 28 Geo. 3d. cited in *Eldon v. Smyth*, 5 Ves. jun. 350. Judgment for defendant, action for £300, upon a note of hand given by defendant to his uncle, payable twelve months after date. The cause was tried at the sittings after Trinity Term. Verdict for the plaintiff, subject to the opinion of the court. The case was, Thomas Pye the uncle made his will the 17th of August, 1785, and after his death the executors found the following entry: "Henry James Pye pays no interest nor shall I ever take the principal unless greatly distressed;" which entry bears date subsequent to the will. Upon the case coming to be argued, the court advised a reference to the Ecclesiastical Court, who refused to prove the same as a testamentary paper, whereupon the court considered the same as a discharge, and that a paper would operate as a bar against the executors.

⁴ *Redshaw v. Jackson*, 1 Campb. 372.

⁵ *Richard v. Carr*, 1 Campb. 551.

quence of which the holder gives up the bill, he will be entitled to seek for payment out of the fund in pursuance of the agreement ^{5thly. Of the effect of payment.}.

In general, if on presentment for payment, the drawee of the bill refuse to pay the amount, it is incumbent on the holder to *protest* it, if the bill be *foreign*, and whether foreign or inland, *to give notice* of the dishonour to those parties to whom he means to resort for payment, or they will be discharged from their respective obligations ^{Sect. 3. Of the conduct which the holder should pursue on non-payment.}.

The conduct which the holder of the bill should pursue on non-payment, is so very similar to that which is to be adopted on refusal to accept, that it is sufficient to refer to the preceding part of the work³, and to point out in what respect the conduct, to be adopted on non-payment, differs from that in case of non-acceptance.

We may remember that the points to be attended to by the holder, in case of non-acceptance, were arranged under the following heads ⁴:

First, When notice of non-acceptance is necessary, and what circumstance will excuse the neglect to give it, or waive the consequences of such neglect. Ante, 256 to 278.

Secondly, The mode in which the notice should be given. Ante, 278 or 288.

Thirdly, The time when a protest (when necessary) should be made, and when notice should be given. Ante, 288 to 292.

Fourthly, By whom notice should be given. Ante, 292 to 295.

Fifthly, To whom the notice should be given. Ante, 295 to 297.

¹ Yates v. Groves, 1 Ves. jun. 280.

² Smith v. Wilson, And. 187.—Rogers v. Stephens, 2 T. R. 713. ; Gale v. Walsh, 5 T. R. 239.

³ Ante, 256 to 309.

⁴ Ante, 256.

Sect. 3. Of the conduct which the holder should pursue on non-payment.

Sixthly, Of the liability of the parties to the bill on receiving notice. Ante, 298 to 301.

Seventhly, How the consequences of a neglect to give notice may be waived. Ante, 301 to 309.

We will concisely consider in the same order the applicability of the rules already mentioned to the case of non-payment.

1st. When notice of non-payment is necessary.

The necessity for giving notice of non-payment is governed by nearly the same rules as prevail in the case of non-acceptance¹. Notice, we have seen, ought in general to be given; or the drawer and indorsers will be discharged from all liability². The want of effects of the drawer in the hands of the drawee, will, we have seen, in general excuse the neglect to give due notice to him³; but few other circumstances will have that effect⁴. When the bill has been already protested for non-acceptance, and due notice thereof has been given, though usual it is not necessary to protest for non-payment, or to give notice thereof⁵; and after a regular notice of non-payment to the drawer, the engagement of the holder to present the bill again, and his doing so, but omitting to give notice of the second dishonour, will not prejudice his remedy against the drawer on the bill⁶. And persons who are bankers, both for the drawer and acceptor of a bill, and have received it from the drawer, and given credit for it in an account between them, if, before it becomes due, they receive directions from the acceptor to stop the payment of it at the place of payment, and do so accordingly, are not bound to give notice of this circumstance to the drawers, the communication of the acceptor being confidential, and it sufficing to give a general notice, of non-payment to

¹ Ante, 256 to 278, and 301 to 309.

² Ante, 256, 7.

³ Ante, 258 to 271.

⁴ Ante, 271 to 278.

⁵ Price v. Dardel, cor. Lord Kenyon, *Sittings at Guildhall*, London, 11 Dec. 1794. *De La Toore v. Barclay*, 1 Stark. 7 and 8. ante, 300, n. 1.

⁶ Forster v. Jurdison, 16 East. 105, ante, 379.

the drawer ¹. We have seen, that if a note be made payable at a bankers, it is not necessary to give the maker notice of non-payment ². But an agreement between all the parties to a bill or note, that it should not be put in suit till certain estates were sold, will constitute no excuse for the want of notice of the non-payment, for as such an understanding could not have been given in evidence to prevent the holder from suing on the note, so it ought not to be received to excuse the want of due notice ³. *The other points respecting the necessity for notice of non-payment, and the excuses for the omission will be found, ante, 256 to 278 and 301 to 309.*

1st. When notice of non-payment is necessary.

With respect to the *form of the notice of non-payment, and the mode of giving it*, the rules relating to non-acceptance here also in general prevail ⁴. In the case of a *foreign bill*, a *protest for non-payment* is as essential as a protest for non-acceptance ⁵, and can, in general, only be dispensed with by the want of effects of the drawer, in the hands of the drawee ⁶. And on non-payment, as well of a foreign as an inland bill, notice of non-payment must be given ⁷. In case of an inland bill, the sending a verbal notice to a merchant's counting-house is sufficient, and if no person be there in the ordinary hours of business, it is not necessary to leave or send a written notice ⁸.

2dly. Form and mode of protesting and giving notice.

The *protest* for non-payment of a *foreign bill*, which is made by a notary public, varies in point of form, according to the country in which it is made: in England the form of it is as follows :

¹ Crosse v. Smith, 1 M. & S. 454.

² Pearse v. Pembertley and others, 3 Campb. 261. ante, 323, 4.

³ Free v. Hawkins, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 550. ante, 61.

⁴ Ante, 278 to 288.

⁵ Ante, 278, 9.—Selw. N. P. 4th ed. 345.

⁶ Gale v. Walsh, 5 T. R. 239.—Chaters v. Bell, 4 Esp. Rep. 49. ante, 258, 9.

⁷ Ante, 284, 5. 279.

⁸ Ante, 284, 5.—Bayl. 127.

2dly. Form and mode of protesting and giving notice.

ON THIS DAY, the first of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six, at the request of A. B. bearer of the *original* bill of exchange, whereof a true copy is on the other side written, I Y. Z. of London, notary public, by royal authority duly admitted and sworn, did exhibit the said bill.

[Here the presentment is stated, and to whom made, and the reason if assigned, for non-payment.]

Wherefore I, the said notary, at the request aforesaid, have protested, and by these presents do solemnly protest as well against the drawer, acceptor, and indorsers of the said bill of exchange, as against all others whom it may concern, for exchange, re-exchange, and all costs, charges, damages, and interest suffered, and to be suffered, for want of payment of the said *original* bill. Thus done and protested in London aforesaid, in the presence of E. F.

[The expenses of noting and protest are then subscribed, for the amount of which, see the Appendix.]

By the former regulation of the 44 Geo. 3. c. 98. Schedule A. a stamp duty of five shillings was imposed on the protest without reference to the amount of the bill, but by the subsequent acts 48 Geo. 3. c. 149, and 55 Geo. 3. c. 184. Schedule A. part 1. title Protest, the duties are as follows :

Protest of any bill of exchange or promissory note for any sum of money.

	s.	d.
Not amounting to £20.	2	0
Amounting to £20. and not amounting to £100.	3	0
Amounting to £100. and not amounting to £500.	5	0
Amounting to £500. or upwards	10	0

The protest should not bear date before the bill is due¹, but as it must, in the case of a foreign bill, be made on the last day of grace², it must bear date generally on that day; but an inland bill is not to be protested till the day after the third day of grace³. When an accepted bill is protested for non-payment, Marius recommends the protest to be sent to the drawer or indorser, and the accepted bill to be kept, unless express orders be given by those parties to the

¹ Mar. 103.—Campbell v. French, 6 T. R. 212.

² Leftley v. Mills, 4 T. R. 170. ante, 289 to 291, et post, 399.—Selw. N. P. 4th ed. 345

³ Leftley v. Mills, 4 T. R. post.

contrary, because the protest for non-payment, with the second accepted bill, will be sufficient proof against the drawer, though not against the acceptor¹. But according to another writer², the drawer or indorser would not be obliged to pay without having the accepted bill delivered up to him, as he would otherwise perhaps have no evidence of the acceptance against the acceptor. Where payment of a non-accepted bill is refused, it is agreed on all hands that there is no risk in sending back the bill with the protest³. Where only part of the money for which the bill is payable is tendered, that part may be taken, and the bill must be protested for non-payment of the residue⁴.

2dly. Form and mode of protesting and giving notice.

Previously to the statute 9 & 10 Will. 3. c. 17. *no inland bill* could be *protested for non-payment*; but by this statute it is enacted, that all bills of exchange drawn in, or dated at any place in England, for the sum of *five pounds* or upwards, upon any person in London, or elsewhere in England, in which bills of exchange shall be expressed *value received*, and payable at a certain number of *days, weeks, or months* after the *date* thereof, after presentation and written acceptance, and after the expiration of the days of grace, the holder, or his agent, may cause the bill to be protested by a notary public, and in default of such notary public, by any other substantial person in the place, in the presence of two witnesses; refusal or neglect being first made of due payment of the same: which protest shall be made and written under a copy of the bill of exchange, in the words or form following:

“ Know all men, that I *A. B.* on the day of
“ at the usual place of abode of the said

¹ Mar. 120.

² Beawes, pl. 220.—Lovl. 100.

³ Mar. 121.

⁴ Mar. 68, 85, 86, 87.—Walwyn v. St. Quintin, 1 Bos. & Pul. 652.

edly. Form and
mode of presenting
and giving notice.

"have demanded payment of the bill, of the which the
"above is a copy, which the said did not pay,
"wherefore I the said *A. B.* do hereby protest the said
"bill. Dated this day of ."

The act directs that this protest shall, within fourteen days after it is made, *be sent, or notice of it given*, to the party from whom the bill was received, who is, upon producing such protest, to repay the bill, together with all interest and charges from the day such bill was protested; for which protest shall be paid a sum not exceeding the sum of *sixpence*; and in default or neglect of such protest, or due notice given, the party forfeits his right of action.

Some observations have already been made on this statute¹. It has been decided, that the holder of a bill payable after *sight*, is not entitled to the accumulative remedy given by this statute², and that a bill within the meaning of the act, cannot be noted or protested until the day after the last day of grace³. It has also been decided, that as the directions of the statute are positive that no sum exceeding sixpence shall be taken for the protest, no larger sum can legally be demanded, notwithstanding it is customary to charge more⁴. It is doubtful, whether the clerk of a notary can, under this statute, make the demand of payment⁵. The act only gives an additional remedy, and does not take away the common law one, and therefore it is not necessary to protest, it being in all cases sufficient to give notice of non-payment⁶, unless for the purpose of entitling the holder to claim interest, under power from the drawer⁷. A protest must also

¹ Ante, 282, 3.—*Leffley v. Mills*, 4 T. R. 170.

² Id. *ibid.* post, 399. n. 6.

³ Id. *ibid.* post, 399. n. 6.

⁴ Id. *ibid.*—See the list of notary's fees in the Appendix.

⁵ Ante, 280.

⁶ *Brough v. Parkins*, 2 Lord Raym. 992.—*Harris v. Benson*, 2 Stra. 910. ante, 282, 3.—3 & 4 Anne, c. 9. s. 5.—2 Bla. Com. 469.

⁷ *Boulager v. Talleyrand*, 2 Esp. Rep. 550; but see ante, 282, 3. according to Lord Hardwicke, C. J. judgment in *Lumley v. Palmer*, Rep. Temp. Hardw. 77, no interest or damage can be recovered from the drawer or indorser without a protest.

be made on the non-payment of *coal notes* given pursuant to 3 Geo. 2. c. 26. s. 187¹.

2dly. Form and mode of presenting and giving notice.

The remaining points relative to the form and mode of protesting and giving notice, will be found, ante, 278 to 288.

A *protest* for the non-payment of a *foreign bill*, or at least the minute of it, must be *made on the day of refusal*²; and it seems not to be settled whether it suffice that a foreign bill be noted by a notary on the day of payment, and the protest drawn up at any time afterwards³. Notice of the dishonour should be sent to the parties, to whom the holder means to resort, by the earliest ordinary conveyance⁴; but it is not necessary to send a copy of the protest⁵.

3dly. The time when protest must be made and notice given.

In the case of an *inland bill*, *no protest* for non-payment can be made until the day *after* it is due⁶.

¹ Smith v. Wilson, Andr. 187. see post.

² Leftley v. Mills, 4 T. R. 174.—Tassel v. Lewis, Lord Raym. 743. ante, 295.

³ Ante, 282. 289.—Chaters v. Bell, 4 Esp. Rep. 48, ante, 289.—Bayl. 122, 3.—Selw. 4th ed. 345, 6.

⁴ Ante, 290.—Darbishire v. Parker, 6 East. 7.

⁵ Ante, 281.—Robins v. Gibson, 1 M. & S. 288.—3 Campb. 334. S. C.

⁶ The words of the statute 9 & 10 Will. 3. c. 17. s. 1. which enable holders to make protest of bills are “after the expiration of three days,” and see Leftley v. Mills, 4 T. R. 170. An inland bill for £20. 7s. payable fourteen days after sight, became due the 24th of April, 1790. A banker's clerk called with it for payment in the morning, and the acceptor not being at home, left word where it lay. After six, another of the clerks, who was a notary, noted it, and between seven and eight the first clerk went with it again; the acceptor tendered him the amount of the bill and sixpence over, but he insisted on 2s. 6d. for the noting, and that sum not being paid, an action was brought against the acceptor, who pleaded the tender. Lord Kenyon thought the tender of the amount of the bill at any time of the day it was payable was sufficient, upon which the jury found a verdict for the defendant. A rule to shew cause why there should not be a new trial was afterwards granted, and upon cause shewn, Lord Kenyon thought the acceptor had till the last minute of the day of grace to pay the bill, and that it could not be noted or protested till the following day. Buller, J. thought they were payable at any time of the last day of grace upon demand, so as such demand was made within reasonable hours, and that they might be protested on that day. Grose, J. declined giving any opinion upon these points, but the whole court concurred that the bill in question could not be noted because it was payable within a limited time after sight, and the statute authorizes the noting of a such inland bills only as are payable *after date*. Lord Kenyon also thought the sixpence tendered was sufficient for the noting, and the rule was discharged.

3dly. The time when protest must be made and notice given.

If a bill be payable at a banker's, and the notary do not present it there, until after five o'clock he will not be a competent witness to prove the non-payment of the bill, which should have been presented before that hour¹.

With respect to the *time* when the notice of non-payment must be given, and the *mode* of giving such notice, it might suffice here to refer to that part of the work in which the giving notice of non-acceptance has been considered. But as the rules upon this point are of such practical importance, we will again consider them in their more immediate application to this part of our subject, at the same time requesting the attention of the reader to the preceding observations².

It is incumbent on the holder to prove that notice of the non-payment was given in due time to the party he sues, and it cannot be left to inference without positive proof, and therefore this is one of the most important branches of the law respecting bills³.

It has been doubted, whether in the case of an inland bill, payable after date or sight, or on a particular event, the drawee has not *the whole* of the day when the bill is due to pay it in, without reference to bank-

¹ Parker v. Gordon, 7 East. 385.—3 Smith Rep. 358. S. C. ante, 354, note 3; but see ante, 354, note 4.

² See the observations, ante, 288 to 292.

³ Lawson and another, assignees of Shiffner v. Sherwood, 1 Stark. 314. In an action by the indorsee against an indorser of a bill, a witness states that either two or three days after the dishonour of the bill, notice was given by letter to the defendant, notice in two days being in time, but notice on the third too late, it cannot be left as a question for the jury whether notice was given in time, although the defendant has had notice to produce the letter which would ascertain the time. Per Lord Ellenborough: The witness says two or three days, but the third day would be too late. It lies upon the plaintiff to show that notice was given in due time and I cannot go upon probable evidence without positive proof of the fact, nor can I infer due notice from the non-production of the letter, the only consequence is, that you may give parol evidence of it. The onus probandi lies upon the plaintiff, and since he has not proved due notice he must be called. Plaintiffs nonsuited.

ing-hours¹, and consequently, whether notice of non-payment *can be given until after that day*². But we have seen, that according to the more recent decision, notice of non-payment may be given on the last day of grace³. The usual practice is, to present such a bill for payment in the course of the morning, and if refused in London, for a *notary*⁴ to present it again in the evening, and if payment be then also refused, the notary notes it, and it should be returned to the party from whom the holder received it, if resident in the same place, early in the next morning, (usually by ten o'clock, but depending on distance) and if residing elsewhere, by the post of that day; and this course is certainly regular; as *it is in no case necessary to give notice of non-payment of an inland bill on the day of refusal*⁵. On the day after that on which the bill becomes due, and when it was presented for payment and refused, the then holder must give notice of the non-payment to the next preceding party; and it seems now to be established, that where the parties live in London, or in an adjacent village within the limits of the two-penny post, each party has an entire day, after that on which he was informed of the dishonour, to give notice to the immediate indorser, and that the notice may be given by letter put into the post-office, however near the residence of the different parties may be, sufficiently early to be received on the day on which he is entitled to notice⁶; and

3dly. The time when protest must be made and notice given.

¹ *Leftley v. Mills*, 4 T. R. 170, ante, 365.—*Hayles v. Birks*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 602.—*Colket v. Freeman*, 2 T. R. 59.

² *Id.* *ibid.*

³ Ante, 365, n. 3.

⁴ But it is in no case necessary to have an inland bill presented for payment by a notary.—*Leftley v. Mills*, 4 T. R. 170, unless to subject the drawer and indorsers to payment of interest, damages, &c.—*Boulager v. Talleyrand*, 2 Esp. Rep. 550. ante, 282, 3.

⁵ *Id.* *ibid.*—*Darbishire v. Parker*, 6 East. 8, 9, and 10.—*Tindal v. Brown*, 1 T. R. 168, 9.—*Russel v. Langstaffe*, Dougl. 515.—*Muilman v. D'Eguino*, 2 Hen. Bla. 565.—*Burbridge v. Manners*, 3 Campb. 193. ante, 365, 6.

⁶ *Scott v. Lifford*, 9 East. 347.—1 Campb. 249. S. C.—*Smith v.*

3dly. The time when protest must be made and notice given.

where the parties do not reside in London, it will be sufficient if the party gives notice to his immediate indorser by the next practical post after he has himself received notice¹; or he may send notice by a private hand, provided it be delivered on the same day that it would have arrived by the post². And with reference to the principles of the decisions on the first branch of this rule, and for the sake of certainty, it may be considered in all cases sufficient, whether the parties reside in London³, or elsewhere, if each forward notice on the day after that on which he received information of the dishonour of the bill. The following recent decisions will establish these rules.

According to the cases collected in *Darbishire v. Parker*⁴, the notice of non-payment must be given within a *reasonable* time, which is a question of law depending nevertheless upon the circumstances of each case. In this case Mr. Justice Lawrence said, "The general rule, as collected from the cases, seems to be with respect to persons living in the same town, that the notice shall be given by the next day; and with regard to such as live at different places, that it should be sent by the *next* post. But, if in any particular place, the post should go out so early after the receipt of the intelligence, as that it would be inconvenient to require a strict adherence to the general rule, then with respect to a case so circumstanced, it would not be reasonable to require the notice to be sent till the *second* post⁵."

Where notice of the dishonour of a bill of exchange by the acceptor, in London, was sent by the post to the holder in Manchester, where the letter was de-

Mullet, 2 Campb. 208.—March v. Maxwell, 2 Campb. 210.—Jameson v. Swinton, 2 Campb. 374.—Hilton v. Fairclough, 2 Campb. 633. Haynes v. Birks, 3 Bos. & Pul. 599.

¹ *Darbishire v. Parker*, 6 East. 3. ante, 285 to 288, as to the sufficiency of notice by the post.

² *Bancroft v. Hall*, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 476. ante, 285, 6.

³ *Jameson v. Swinton*, 2 Campb. 374.—2 Taunt. 224, S. C.

⁴ 6 East. 3 & 9 to 12.

⁵ *Darbishire v. Parker*, 6 East. 3;

livered out between eight and nine o'clock in the morning, and the post went out for Liverpool, where the drawer lived, between twelve at noon and one, and the holder did not send notice to the drawer by *the post either of the same day or the next*, but sent it in a letter by a *private* person on the latter day, who did not deliver it to the drawer till two hours after the post delivery, and only about one hour before the post left Liverpool for London, whereby the drawer was so agitated that he could not write in time for that day's post to London; it was holden, that at all events *the holder had made the bill his own by his laches*¹; for whether reasonable notice be a question of law, or of fact, or whether the general rule of law require notice of the dishonour of a bill to be sent to a party living at another place by the next post after *it is received*, by which must be understood the next *practicable* post in point of time and distance, and whether four hours between the coming in and going out of the post be a sufficient interval in point of practical convenience to receive the notice, and to prepare a letter of advice to the drawer; at all events the holder ought to have written by *the post of the next day after notice received by him*, and ought not to have *delayed the receipt of notice by the drawer* until after the arrival of the next post, by sending the letter by a private hand².

sdly. The time when protest must be made and notice given.

But we have seen, that provided the notice arrive on the proper day, the sending it by a private hand, by which a later delivery on that day was occasioned than if it had been sent by the post, will not prejudice³.

Where a bill of exchange passed through the hands of five persons, all of whom lived in London, or the neighbourhood, and the bill when due being dishonoured, the holder gave notice on the same day to the fifth indorser, and he on the next day to the fourth,

¹ *Darbishire v. Parker*, 6 East. 3.

² *Id. ibid.*

³ *Bancroft v. Hall*, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 476. ante, 286. n. 2.

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when protest must
be made and no-
tice given.

and he on the next day to the third, and he on the next day to the second, and he on the same day to the first, the court were of opinion, on a case finding these facts, that due diligence had been used¹.

Where a bill, indorsed in blank, and deposited by the holder with his bankers, became due on Saturday, and was presented for payment about two o'clock on that day, and payment being refused, the bill was noted, and again presented between nine and ten in the evening by a notary, and on Monday the bankers informed the holder that the bill was dishonoured, who, on Monday about noon, gave notice by the post to the indorser, and it appearing that the holder lived at Knightsbridge, and the indorser in Tottenham-court-road, it was holden, that this notice was sufficient to entitle the holder to recover against the indorser²; and Lord Alvanley, C. J. observed, that as soon as the banker is informed of the non-payment of a bill, it becomes his business to acquaint his principal of that circumstance; and that if a bill be returned to a banker, he is bound to give notice to his principal *that very day*, if he can do so by using ordinary diligence³; but that in the last-mentioned case, it was impossible for the bankers on Saturday night to give notice to the plaintiff, since the bill was not presented by the notary till between nine and ten o'clock. On Sunday of course they were not bound to do so. And on Monday they did apprize the plaintiff of the non-payment; that it did not appear at what time on Monday the plaintiff received the notice. The plaintiff was not bound to be at home the whole of the day; and supposing him to have returned home late on that day, he was not bound to send a special messenger to the defendant; if he informed the defendant

¹ Hilton v. Shepherd, 6 East. 14.—Smith v. Mullett, 2 Campb. 208; and see Jameson v. Swinton, 2 Campb. 374.—2 Taunt. 224, S. C.

² Haynes v. Birks, 3 Bos. & Pul. 539.

³ Not so now; a banker is considered as a distinct holder, though he is possessed of the bill, merely to receive for his customers. Robson v. Bennett, 2 Taunt. 388.—Langdale v. Trimmer, 15 East. 291.

the course of the post it was sufficient. Certainly he was bound to write by the two-penny post on Monday, and supposing him to have done so, the defendant would only receive his letter on Tuesday. It appeared, that on Tuesday he did receive the notice. The court could not so nicely measure the minutes as to consider whether the precise time of the receipt corresponds with the time at which a letter sent by the post on Monday night, would arrive.

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In *Robson v. Bennett*¹, it was held, that a person renewing a check on a banker, is equally authorized in lodging it with his own banker to obtain payment, as he would be in paying it away in the course of trade, although, in consequence thereof, the notice of dishonour is postponed a day, one day being allowed for notice from the payee to the drawer, after the day on which notice is given by the bankers to the payee, and the bankers are to be considered as distinct holders: and the same doctrine was established in *Langdale v. Trimmer*².

So in the case of *Scott v. Lifford*³, where the indorsee of a bill of exchange lodged it with his bankers, who presented it for payment on the fourth, when it was dishonoured, and on the fifth they returned it to the indorsee, who gave notice to the drawer of the dishonour on the sixth by the two-penny post, it was held, that such notice was reasonable. And Lord Ellenborough, C. J. said, "I cannot say that the holder, on the return of the bill dishonoured to him, is bound, *omissis omnibus aliis negotiis*, to post off immediately with notice; if reasonable diligence has been used it is sufficient."

But in the recent case of *Smith v. Mullett*⁴, which was an action by the *fourth* against the *first* indorsee,

¹ *Robson v. Bennett*, 2 Taunt. 388. ante, 404.—Bayl. 126.

² *Langdale v. Trimmer*, 15 East. 291.—Bayl. 126.

³ *Scott v. Lifford*, 9 East. 347.—1 Campb. 249. S. C.

⁴ *Smith v. Mullett*, 2 Campb. 208; and see *id.* 374.

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all the parties to which resided in London, it appeared, that the plaintiff received notice of the dishonour of the bill from his indorsee on the 20th of the month, and gave notice to his immediate indorser, by a letter put into the two-penny post-office on the evening of the 21st, *but so late that it was not delivered out till the morning of the 22d*, it was held, that by this neglect the plaintiff had discharged all the prior indorsers, although, in the course of the 22d, notice of the dishonour was given both to the *second* indorsee and to the defendant. And Lord Ellenborough in this case said, "It is of great importance that there should be an established rule upon this subject; and I think there can be none more convenient, than that, where the parties reside in London, each party should have a *day* to give notice. I have before said, the holder of a bill of exchange is not, *omissis omnibus aliis negotiis*, to devote himself to giving notice of its dishonour. It is enough if this be done with reasonable expedition. If you limit a man to the fractional part of a day, it will come to a question, how swiftly the notice can be conveyed? A man and a horse must be employed, and you will have a race against time. But here *a day has been lost*. The plaintiff had notice himself on Monday, and does not give notice to his indorser till Wednesday. If a party has an entire day he must send off his letter conveying the notice within post time of that day. The plaintiff only wrote the letter to Aylett on the Tuesday; it might as well have continued in his writing-desk on the Tuesday night as lie at the post-office. He has clearly been guilty of laches, by which the defendant is discharged." And in *Marsh v. Maxwell*, Lord Ellenborough ruled, that upon the dishonour of a bill, it is not enough that the drawer or indorser receives notice in as many days as there are subsequent indorsers, unless it is shown that each indor-

* *Marsh v. Maxwell*, 2 Campb. 210.

see gave notice within a day after receiving it ; and if any one has been beyond the day, the drawer and prior indorsers are discharged. But in a subsequent case of *Cutler v. Boddy*¹, this doctrine was denied, and the question has been recently reserved for the opinion of the court².

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From the above-mentioned case of *Smith v. Mullett*³, it appears, that though the holder is not bound to send a special messenger, and may give notice by the post, he must take care to put the letter in the post sufficiently early on the day after he has himself received notice, that the party to whom it is addressed, may receive the letter on that day.

We have seen that the holder will be excused in the delay of giving notice in the usual time, by the day on which he should regularly have given notice being a day on which he is strictly forbidden by his religion to attend to any secular affairs⁴, or by the absconding of the drawer or indorser⁵.

Where it may be necessary to give notice of non-payment to a banker; it may be proper to give it in the usual hours of business, but to other persons the particular hour of the day is not in general⁶.

The remaining points relative to the time of giving notice will be found, ante, 288 to 292.

In respect to the *person by*⁷ and to *whom*⁸ notice of non-payment should be given, and the *liability* of the different parties to the bill on notice of the non-payment⁹, and how the *consequences* of the laches of the

The remaining points.

¹ *Cutler and another v. Boddy*, K. B. Guildhall, 4th June, 1814; cor. Lord Ellenborough. Patten, attorney for the defendant.

² *Turner v. Leach*, K. B. A. D. 1818. A special case reserved, *Lowe and Bower*, for the plaintiff.

³ See also *Hilton v. Fairclough*, 2 Campb. 633.

⁴ *Ante*, 277.

⁵ *Starges v. Derrish*, Wightw. 76.

⁶ *Jameson v. Swinton*, 2 Taunt. 224.—*Barclay v. Bayley*, 2 Campb. 527.—*Cross v. Smith*, 1 M. & S. 545.—*Bancroft v. Hall*, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 476. *ante*, 353 to 355.—*Bayl.* 127.

⁷ *Ante*, 292 to 295.

⁸ *Ante*, 295 to 397.

⁹ *Ante*, 298 to 301.

The remaining
points.

holder may be *waived*, or otherwise done away¹, the rules already stated, as to the conduct of the holder in the case of non-acceptance, are so applicable, that it would be repetition here to make any observation on those points; the reader is therefore referred to the preceding part of the work².

Sect. 4. Of pay-
ment *supra protest*.

We have already considered the nature of the protest for better security, and of an acceptance *supra protest*³. The nature of a *payment supra protest* remains to be considered.

Payment of a bill, whether foreign or inland⁴, being refused; any third person, not party to the bill, as he might have accepted, so he may after protest pay it, *for the honour* of the drawer, or any of the indorsers⁵; which payment, as it is always made after protest, is called payment *supra protest*⁶; but, the acceptor, if he have previously made a simple acceptance, cannot pay in honour of an indorser, because, as acceptor, he is already bound in that capacity⁷; he may, however, when he has accepted a bill without having effects of the drawer in his hands, and no provision has been made by the drawer for payment, suffer the bill to be protested, and then pay *supra protest*⁸; in which case he will have a remedy on the bill against the drawer⁹. A party paying a bill *supra protest*, which has already been accepted by another, may sue such first acceptor⁹; but if a person take up a bill for the honour of the drawer, he has no right of action

¹ Ante, 301 to 309.

² Ante, 292 to 309.

³ Ante, 309 —Smith v. Nissen, 1 T. R. 269.

⁴ Fairley v. Roch, Lutw. 891, 892.—Marius, 128.—Bayl. 146.

⁵ Beawes, pl. 50.—Mar. 128.

⁶ Beawes, pl. 51.

⁷ Id. pl. 52.

⁸ Id. *ibid.*; and Raper v. Birkbeck, 15 East. 17.—Bayl. 146.

⁹ Ex parte Wackerbarth, 5 Ves. jun. 574.

against the acceptor, if he accepted it for the accommodation of the drawer ¹. Sect. 4. Of payment supra protest.

In general, no person should pay in honour of another, before the bill has been protested for non-payment; and it is said that he should not even then make such payment, before he has declared to a notary public for whose honour he intends making it, of which declaration the notary must give an account to the parties concerned, either in the protest itself, or in a separate instrument ². If, however, the acceptor supra protest for the honour of the drawer or indorser, receive his approbation of the acceptance, he may pay the bill without any protest for non-payment ³.

Although, with respect to other debts, a stranger, who has no interest in them, does not, by paying them, entitle himself to the rights of a creditor, unless he have the consent of the debtor to such payment ⁴, yet, with regard to bills of exchange, a stranger, who pays them in case of protest, acquires all the same rights that the holder of the bill had, although no regular transfer of the bill were made to him ⁵; and he may maintain an action against the person for whose honour he discharged the bill, either on the bill itself ⁶, or on the count for money paid to the defendant's use ⁷. A person taking up a bill for the honour of the drawer has, however, no right against the acceptor without effects ⁸. The reason of the above exception to the general rule,

¹ Ex parte Lambert, 13 Ves. jun. 179.—Bayl. 146, 148.

² Beawes, pl. 53.—Mar. 128.

³ Beawes, pl. 48.

⁴ Exall v. Partridge, 8 T. R. 310.—1 Rol. Ab. 11.—Lampleigh v. Buthwait, Hob. 105.—Stokes v. Lewis, 1 T. R. 20.—In Williams v. Millington, 1 Hen. Bla. 83.—Jenkins v. Tucker, Id. 91.

⁵ Mertens v. Winnington, 1 Esp. Rep. 112.—Poth. pl. 171.—Ex parte Wackerbarth, 5 Ves. jun. 574.—Manning's Index, 70.

⁶ Fairley v. Roch, Lutw. 891. See Manning's Index, 70.

⁷ Smith v. Nissen, 1 T. R. 269.

⁸ Ex parte Lambert, 13 Ves. jun. 179.—Bayl. 148.; but see 5 Ves. jun. 574.

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ment supra protest.

precluding a party from constituting himself the creditor of another, without his concurrence, it has been observed, is, that it induces the friends of the drawer or indorsers to render them this service, it tends to prevent the great expense attending the return of a bill, and preserves the credit of the trader¹, &c.

¹ Beawes, pl. 54.—Poth. pl. 171.

CHAPTER VII.

OF CHECKS ON BANKERS.

A CHECK, or draft, on a banker, is a written order or request, addressed to persons carrying on the business of bankers, and drawn upon them by a party having money in their hands, requesting them to pay on presentment to a person therein named, or to bearer, a named sum of money. The form of a check has already been given¹. It nearly resembles a bill of exchange, but it is uniformly made payable to bearer, and must be drawn upon a regular banker. On account of the daily and immediate use of checks, the legislature has exempted them from stamp duties, provided they be for the payment of money to the bearer on demand, and drawn upon a banker or person acting as such, residing, or transacting the business of a banker, within ten miles of the place where such draft or order shall be issued, and provided also that such place be specified in such draft or order, and that the same bear date on or before the day the same shall be issued, and do not direct the payment to be made by bills or promissory notes². We have before considered the decisions upon this enactment³. If these requisites be not strictly observed, an unstamped check cannot be read in evidence for any purpose⁴.

It was once thought, that a check or draft on a banker is not negotiable generally, but only so within the bills of mortality⁵. But it is now settled, that they are as negotiable as bills of exchange, though, strictly speaking, they are not due before payment is

¹ Ante, 66.

² 55 Geo. 3. c. 184. Ante, 67, 8.

³ Ante, 71.

⁴ *Borradaile v. Middleton*, 2 Campb. 53.

⁵ *Grant v. Vaughan*, 3 Burr. 1517.

demand, in which respect they differ from bills of exchange or promissory notes, payable on a particular day'. In practice, they are taken in payment as cash, and it has been decided, that a banker in London, receiving bills from his correspondent in the country, to whom they had been indorsed to present for payment, is not guilty of negligence in giving up such bills to the acceptor upon receiving a check on a banker for the amount, although it turn out that such check is dishonored². They must, however, be described as checks, and not as cash in an annuity transaction'. And in an action for usury, the forbearance should be laid from the time when the check was actually received, and not from the time when it was given⁴. It is said that checks are not protestable⁵; and this doctrine seems to be correct, because checks are payable on presentment, and the statute 9 & 10 Will. 3. c. 17. applies only to bills of exchange payable after the date.

In the ordinary course of business, a check cannot be circulated or negotiated so as to affect the drawer, who has funds in the hands of the bankers, after banking hours, of the day after he first issues it⁶. But where the drawers of a banker's check issued it nine months after it bore date, upon a consideration which afterwards failed, as between them and the persons to whom they delivered it, it was held that they could not be permitted to object this circumstance in an action brought by a subsequent holder for a valuable consideration, and without notice, though by the general rule, any person receiving a negotiable instrument after it is due, is deemed to have taken it upon the credit of the person from whom he received it, and

¹ Per Lord Kenyon in *Boehm v. Stirling*, 7 T. R. 430.

² *Russell v. Hankey*, 7 T. R. 12. Ante, 368.

³ *Poole v. Cabanes*, 8 T. R. 328.—*Duff v. Atkinson*, 8 Vet. 577. 580.

⁴ *Borradaile v. Middleton*, 2 Campb. 53.

⁵ *Grant v. Vaughan*, 3 Burr. 1519.

⁶ Ante, 350, 1.

subject to the same equities as existed between him and the party sued on such instrument ¹.

With respect to the time when checks should be presented for payment, the general rule seems to be, that it suffices to present it at any time during banking hours of the day after it was issued ². If the banker on whom the check is drawn has reason to suspect that the drawer has committed an act of bankruptcy, he cannot safely pay the draft, because the payment of a check on a banker is not protected by the statute 19 Geo. 2. c. 32. s. 1. which mentions only bills of exchange and debts for goods sold ³. Most of the rules respecting bills of exchange affect checks on bankers, and therefore it may suffice to refer to the preceding part of the work, and to the Index, title Check.

¹ *Boehm v. Stirling*, 7 T. R. 423. Ante, 166, in notes.

² Ante, 350, 1.

³ *Holroyd v. Whitehead*, 1 Marsh. 128. 5 Taunt. 444.

CHAPTER VIII.

OF PROMISSORY NOTES—BANKERS NOTES, AND BANK OF ENGLAND NOTES.

THE law respecting bills of exchange, having been pointed out in the preceding chapters, it remains, in the present, to make a few observations; relative to promissory notes, bankers notes, and bank of England notes.

Sect. 1. Of promissory notes.

A *promissory note* is defined to be a promise or engagement in writing, to pay a specified sum at a time therein limited, or on demand, or at sight, to a person therein named, or his order, or to the bearer¹. The person who makes the note is called the maker, and the person to whom it is payable the payee, and the person to whom he transfers the interest by indorsement, the indorsee.

The usual form of the instrument is thus :—

£50

London, 1st January, 1818.

Two months after date (or “on demand”), I promise to
(Stamp) pay to Mr. A. B. or order fifty pounds, for value received.

C. D.

[Sometimes are here subscribed, “Payable at Messrs. G. H. and Co. bankers, London.” But those words are immaterial, *ante*, 325.]

Observing on the origin and nature of promissory notes, it has been well remarked, by a modern writer², that, as commerce advanced in its progress, the multiplicity of its concerns required, in many instances, a less complicated mode of payment, and of obtaining credit, then through the medium of bills of exchange,

¹ 2 Bla. Com. 467.—Bayl. 1.—Kyd. 18. Selw. N. P. 4th ed. 361.

² Kyd. 18.

to which there are, in general, three parties. A trader, whose situation and circumstances rendered credit from the merchant or manufacturer, who supplied him with goods, absolutely necessary, might have so limited a connection with the commercial world at large, that he could not easily furnish his creditor with a bill of exchange on another, but his own responsibility might be such, that his engagement to pay, reduced into writing, might be accepted with the same confidence as a bill on another.

The validity of these instruments, though favoured by many judges, met with a strenuous opponent in Lord Holt, who, as it has been observed¹, most pertinaciously adhered to his opinion, that no action could be maintained on a promissory note, as an instrument, but that it was only to be considered as evidence of a debt. He was of opinion, that actions upon notes, as such, were innovations upon the rules of the common law; and that the declarations upon them amounted to the setting up a new sort of specialty unknown in Westminster-hall². The learned judge appears to have retained this opinion in a case³ where judgment for the plaintiff, in an action on a promissory note, was reversed, on the ground that the custom alleged in the declaration was void, since it tended to bind a man to pay money without any consideration. As observed by Lord Kenyon, C. J. this question exercised the judgments of the most able lawyers of the last century; but the authority and weight which Lord Holt's opinion had in Westminster-hall, made others yield to him; and it was thought necessary to resort to the legislature⁴, and the 3 and 4 Anne,

¹ Brown v. Harraden, 4 T. R. 151.

² Clerke v. Martin, 2 Ld. Raym. 758.—Story v. Atkins, id. 1430. Trier v. Bridgman, 2 East. 359.—Walmsley v. Child, 1 Ves. 346.

³ Clerke v. Martin, 2 Ld. Raym. 759.—Buller v. Crips, 6 Mod. 29, 30.—Grant v. Vaughan, 3 Burr. 1520.

⁴ Brown v. Harraden, 4 T. R. 151.

Before the statute of queen Anne many attempts were made to put promissory notes on the footing of bills of exchange, but without

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c. 9¹, (made perpetual by 7 Ann. c. 25. s. 3.) was passed: by which, after reciting "that it had been held, that
" notes in writing, signed by the party who made the
" same, whereby such party promised to pay unto
" any other person, or his order, any sum of money

success, vide *Pearson v. Garrett*, 4 Mod. 242.—*Clerke v. Martin*, *Ld. Raym.* 757.—*Salk.* 129.—*Burton v. Souter*, *Ld. Raym.* 774, and *Williams v. Cutting*, *Ld. Raym.* 825.—*Salk.* 24.—7 Mod. 154.—11 Mod. 24, and see 4 T. R. 151, 152.

" By the 3 and 4 Anne, c. 9. s. 1. Whereas it hath been held, that notes in writing, signed by the party who makes the same, whereby such party promises to pay unto any other person, or his order, any sum of money therein mentioned, are not assignable or indorsable over, within the custom of merchants, to any other person; and that such person to whom the sum of money mentioned in such note is payable, cannot maintain an action by the custom of merchants against the person who first made and signed the same; and that any person to whom such note should be assigned, indorsed, or made payable, could not within the said custom of merchants, maintain any action upon such note against the person who first drew and signed the same;" therefore, to the intent to encourage trade and commerce, which will be much advanced, if such notes shall have the same effect as inland bills of exchange, and shall be negotiated in like manner; be it enacted, that all notes in writing, that after the 1st day of May, in the year of our Lord 1705, shall be made and signed by any person or persons, body politic or corporate, or by the servant or agent of any corporation, banker, goldsmith, merchant, or trader, who is usually intrusted by him, her, or them, to sign such promissory notes for him, her, or them, whereby such person or persons, body politic and corporate, his, her, or their servant or agent as aforesaid, doth or shall promise to pay to any other person or persons, body politic and corporate, his, her, or their order, or unto bearer, any sum of money mentioned in such note, shall be taken and construed to be, by virtue thereof, due and payable to any such person or persons, body politic and corporate, to whom the same is made payable, and also every such note payable to any person or persons, body politic and corporate, his, her, or their order, shall be assignable or indorsable over, in the same manner as inland bills of exchange are or may be, according to the custom of merchants; and that the person and persons, body politic or corporate, to whom such sum of money is or shall be by such note made payable, shall and may maintain an action for the same, in such manner as he, she, or they might do, upon any inland bill of exchange, made or drawn according to the custom of merchants, against the person or persons, body politic and corporate, who, or whose servant or agent as aforesaid, signed the same; and that any person or persons, body politic and corporate, to whom such note, that is payable to any person or persons, body politic and corporate, his, her, or their order, is indorsed or assigned, or the money therein mentioned ordered to be paid by indorsement thereon, shall and may maintain his, her, or their action for such sum of money, either against the person or persons, body politic and corporate, who, or whose servant or agent as aforesaid signed such note, or against any of the persons who indorsed the same, in like manner as in cases of inland bills of exchange.—*Bayl.* 1, 2.

¹ See observations on this statute. *Colchan v. Cooke*, *Willes*, 395. *Bayl.* 1.

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“ therein mentioned, were not assignable or indorsable
“ over, within the custom of merchants, to any other
“ person; and that such person to whom the sum of
“ money mentioned in such note was payable, could
“ not maintain an action, by the custom of merchants,
“ against the person who first made and signed the
“ same; and that any person to whom such note had
“ been assigned, indorsed, or made payable, could not,
“ within the custom of merchants, maintain any action
“ upon such note against the person who first drew
“ and signed the same, it was to the intent to en-
“ courage trade and commerce, which would be much
“ advanced, if such notes *should have the same effect*
“ *as inland bills of exchange*, and should be *negotiated*
“ *in like manner*, enacted, that *all notes* in writing,
“ made and signed by any person or persons, body
“ politic or corporate, or by the servant or agent of
“ any corporation, banker, goldsmith, merchant, or
“ trader, who is usually intrusted by him, her, or them,
“ to sign such promissory notes for him, her, or them,
“ whereby such person or persons, body politic and
“ corporate, his, her, or their servant or agent as afore-
“ said, doth or shall promise to pay to any other per-
“ son or persons, body politic and corporate, his, her,
“ or their order, or unto bearer, any sum of money
“ mentioned in such note, shall be taken and construed
“ to be, by virtue thereof, due and payable to any such
“ person or persons, body politic and corporate, to
“ whom the same is made payable; and also every
“ such note payable to any person or persons, body
“ politic and corporate, his, her, or their order, shall be
“ assignable or indorsable over, *in the same manner as*
“ *inland bills of exchange* are or may be, according to
“ the custom of merchants; and that the person or
“ persons, body politic and corporate, to whom such
“ sum of money is or shall be by such note made pay-
“ able, shall and may maintain an action for the same,
“ *in such manner as he, she, or they, might do, upon*

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“ *any inland bills of exchange*, made or drawn according to the custom of merchants, against the person or persons, body politic and corporate, who, or whose servant or agent as aforesaid, signed the same; and that any person or persons, body politic and corporate, to whom such note that is payable to any person or persons, body politic and corporate, his, her, or their order, is indorsed or assigned, or the money therein mentioned, ordered to be paid by indorsement thereon, shall and may maintain his, her, or their action, for such sum of money, either against the person or persons, body politic and corporate, who, or whose servant or agent as aforesaid, signed such note, or against any of the persons that indorsed the same, *in like manner as in cases of inland bills of exchange.*”

It has been considered that this statute of the 3 & 4 Ann. c. 9, giving the like remedy upon promissory notes as upon bills of exchange (though made perpetual by the statute 7 Ann. c. 25, passed after the union with Scotland) does not extend to promissory notes made in Scotland, because such subsequent statute only made the former act, which was a temporary law of England to have perpetual force *there*¹, but subsequent statutes appear to recognize notes made in Scotland as valid². And although the statute of Ann. may not apply to notes made out of England³, yet it should seem that notes made in a foreign country would now be held valid at common law⁴, though it would

¹ King v. Esdale, 6th Dec. 1711. Forbes on Bills, 174.

² 39 Geo. 3. c. 107.—12 Geo. 3. c. 72.

³ Bayl. 18.—Carr v. Shaw, *infra*. 419. n. 1.

⁴ In Pollard v. Herries, 3 Bos. & Pul. 335, a promissory note was made in Paris, payable there or in England, and no objection was taken on that account.—In Hewitt v. Morris, 3 Campb. 303, a declaration, on a note made at Paris, stated, that it was made in London, and Lord Ellenborough held, that this was no variance, because the contract evidenced by a promissory note is transitory, and the place where it purports to be made is immaterial, and the plaintiff recovered.—In Roche v. Campbell, 3 Campb. 247., the plaintiff declared on a note made in Ireland, and no objection was taken on that account. In Splitgerber v. Kolm, 1 Stark. 125, the plaintiff declared on a promissory note, drawn in Prussia, against the maker, and no objection was taken.

be improper to declare upon them as made in pursuance of the statute¹. But it has been held, that the forging a Scotch bank note was not an offence within the English statute 2 Geo. 2. c. 25, against forgery, the note being made payable locally, where it was drawn². The statute 48 Geo. 3. c. 149. s. 21, directs, that all promissory notes made out of Great Britain, or purporting to have been so made, shall not be negotiable, circulated, or paid in Great Britain, unless duly stamped as a promissory note made in Great Britain, and subjects the party offending to £20 penalty, with an exemption in favor of notes made payable only in Ireland. The more recent enactment in the statute 55 Geo. 3. c. 184. s. 29, seems only to apply a similar enactment to promissory notes, payable to bearer on demand.

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Although the statute 3 and 4 Anne, enacts, that all notes in writing, made and *signed* by the party making it, shall be valid and assignable in like manner as an inland bill, yet it suffices if his name be written in any part of the note. And it has been held, that if a party write his promissory note thus:—I, John Dobbins, promise to pay, &c. this is as good as a note, I promise to pay, and subscribed J. Dobbins³.

¹ Carr v. Shaw, B. R. Hil. 39 Geo. 3. Bayl. 18, n. 1. In an action on a promissory note made at Philadelphia, the first count of the declaration stated, that the defendant at Philadelphia, in parts beyond the seas, to wit, at London, &c. *according to the form of the statute*, &c. made his note in writing, &c. There were also the common money counts. The defendant demurred *specially* to the first count, and pleaded the general issue to the others. On the demurrer the court intimated a strong opinion that the statute did not apply to foreign notes, and advised the plaintiff to amend, but on the general issue Lord Kenyon said, the note, though not within the statute, is evidence to support any of the money counts, and the plaintiff had a verdict, at Guildhall, 1st May, 1799. N. B. The pleadings are entered as of Michaelmas Term, 39 Geo. 3. Roll, 1238.

² The King v. Dick, 1 Leach. C. L. 4th ed. 68.—2 East 925. S. C.

³ Taylor v. Dobbins, 1 Stra. 339. In case upon a promissory note, the declaration ran, that the defendant made a note *et manu sua propria scripsit*. Exception was taken that since the statute he should have said that the defendant signed the note, but the court held it well enough, because laid to be wrote with his own hand, and

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The above statute being a remedial law and made for the encouragement of trade and commerce, the courts have construed it liberally¹. The statute places promissory notes on the same footing as bills of exchange, and consequently the decisions and rules relating to the one are in general applicable to the other². Thus it has been decided, with respect to the time when a note is payable, that there is no difference between bills and promissory notes; and the latter, when payable at a stated time, are also entitled to three days of *grace* when payable to bearer or order³. And in *Carlos v. Fancourt*, where the

there needs no subscription in that case, for it is sufficient his name is in any part of it. I, J. S. promise to pay, is as good as I promise to pay, subscribed J. S. See also *Elliott v. Cowper*, 1 Stra. 609.—2 *Ld. Raym.* 1376. and *Vin. Abr. tit. Bills of Exchange*, H.

¹ *Selw. Ni. Pri.* 4th edit. 363.

² *Bishop v. Young*, 2 Bos & Pul. 80. 4.—*Hill v. Halford*, id. 413. *Coleham v. Cooke*, Willes, 394. 399. note b.—*Brown v. Harraden*, 4 T. R. 152.—*Carlos v. Fancourt*, 5 T. R. 486.—*Heylin v. Adamson*, 2 Burr. 669.—*Bayl.* 3. note a.; and see *Smith v. Kendal*, 6 T. R. 123.

In *Heylin v. Adamson*, 2 Burr. 669, the question was, whether the indorsee of a bill was bound to make a demand upon the drawer, as the indorsee of a note must upon the maker; and per Lord Mansfield, while a note continues in its original shape of a promise from one man to another, it bears no similitude to a bill; but when it is indorsed, the resemblance begins, for then it is an order by the indorser upon the maker to pay the indorsee, which is the very definition of a bill. The indorser is the drawer, the maker of the note the acceptor, and the indorsee the person to whom it is made payable; and all the authorities, and particularly Lord Hardwicke, in a case of *Hamerton v. Mackarell*, M. 10 Geo. 2., put promissory notes on the same footing with bills of exchange.

In *Brown v. Harraden*, 4 T. R. 148., where the court decided, that three days grace should be allowed on promissory notes, Lord Kenyon observed, that the effect of the statute was, that notes were wholly to assume the shape of bills; and Buller, J. added, that the cases cited in the argument shewed clearly, that the courts of Westminster had thought the analogy between bills and notes so strong, that the rules established with respect to the one ought also to prevail as to the other; that the language of the preamble of the act was express; that it was the object of the legislature to put notes exactly on the same footing with bills; and that the enacting part pursued that intention. The same doctrine is to be found in *Carlos v. Fancourt*, 5 T. R. 482.—*Edie v. East India Company*, Burr. 1224.

In 2 *Bla. Com.* 470., and *Bayley on Bills*, 69., it is said, that a note may be considered on comparison with a bill as accepted when it issues.

³ *Brown v. Harraden*, 4 T. R. 152. See last note, and cases, *Manning's Index*, 65.

Smith v. Kendall, 6 T. R. 123. Three days grace are allowed on a promissory note payable to A., without adding, "or to his order, or

question was, whether or not a note, payable out of a particular fund, could be declared on as a promissory note, it was decided in the negative, "because promissory notes must stand or fall on the same rules by which bills of exchange are governed."⁴ In *Heylin v. Adamson*⁵, Lord Mansfield declared, that though, while a promissory note continues in its original shape of a promise from one man to pay to another, it bears no similitude to a bill of exchange, yet when it is indorsed, the resemblance begins: for then it is an order by the indorser upon the maker of the note to pay to the indorsee; the indorser becomes, as it were the drawer, the maker of the note the acceptor; and the indorsee the payee⁶. This point of resemblance once fixed, the law relative to bills becomes applicable to promissory notes. Hence it is only necessary to refer the reader to the prior parts of the work.

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With respect to a particular description of notes in the *coal trade*, there are some peculiar provisions, it having been enacted, that all lightermen, and other

to bearer." Lord Kenyon, C. J. said, "If this were *res integra*, and there were no decision upon the subject, there would be a great deal of weight in the defendant's objection; but it was decided, in a case in Lord Raymond (2 Ld. Raym. 1545.) on demurrer, that a note payable to B., without adding, or to his order, or to bearer, was a legal note within the act of parliament. It is also said in *Marius*, that a note may be made payable either to A. or bearer, A. or order, or to A. only. In addition to these authorities, I have made enquiries among different merchants, respecting the practice in allowing the three days grace, the result of which is, that the bank of England, and the merchants in London, allow the three days grace on notes like the present. The opinion of merchants, indeed, would not govern this court in a question of law, but I am glad to find that the practice of the commercial world coincides with the decision of a court of law. Therefore, I think that it would be dangerous now to shake that practice, which is warranted by a solemn decision of this court, by any speculative reasoning on the subject; and consequently this rule must be made absolute, to enter a verdict for the plaintiff."

⁴ *Carlos v. Fancourt*, 5 T. R. 486.—*Hill v. Halford*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 413.

⁵ *Heylin v. Adamson*, 2 Burr. 676.

⁶ In *Bishop v. Young*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 83. the court observed, that this resemblance, so far as regards the remedy by action of *debt*, does not hold.

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buyers or contractors of coal aboard ship, in the port of London, shall, at the time of delivery of such coals, either pay for the same in ready money, or give their *promissory note* for payment, expressing therein the words, *value received in coals*, and that such notes may be protested and noted as inland bills; and that, in default of such protest or noting, and notice thereof given to the indorsers within twenty days after non-payment, they shall be discharged from liability; and it is enacted, that such buyer of coals, and the master of the vessel, shall, for refusing to insert the words, *value received in coals*, or receiving a note for coals without those words, forfeit £100'. Upon this act it has been decided, that it extends only to contractors for coals, and to cases between an indorser and indorsee²; and that though the act di-

¹ See Bayl. 121, 2. 3 Geo. 2. c. 26. s. 7. "and be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That, from and after the 24th day of June, 1730, all lightermen, and other buyers of or contractors for coals, on board of any ship or vessel in the port of London, shall, at the time of the delivery of such coals, either pay for the same in ready money, or for such part thereof as shall not be so paid for, shall give their respective promissory notes, or notes of their hands, for payment thereof, expressing therein the words, *value received in coals*, payable at such day or days, time or times, as shall for that purpose be agreed upon between such lighterman, or other buyer of or contractor for coals, and the master or owner of such ship or vessel, or his agent or factor on his behalf; and that all such notes, in case of non-payment at the respective days and times therein mentioned, shall and may be protested or noted, in such manner as inland bills of exchange may now be, and in default of such protesting and noting by any indorsee, and notice thereof given by such indorsee to the respective indorser or indorsers, within twenty days after such failure of payment, such respective indorser or indorsers, to whom such notice shall not be given, shall not be chargeable with or liable to answer or pay such sum of money as shall be mentioned to be payable in or by such note or notes, nor any part thereof; any law, usage, or custom to the contrary thereof notwithstanding."

S. 8 "And be it further enacted, That all such lightermen, or other buyers of or contractors for coals, who shall, after the 24th day of June, 1730, refuse to give their note or notes for coals to them respectively delivered, and shall refuse to insert the said words, *value received in coals*, and every such master who shall take any such note from any dealer in coals, in which note the words, *value received in coals*; are not expressly inserted, such lightermen, buyers of, or contractors for coals, and masters, shall, for every such refusal or acceptance, respectively forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred pounds."

² Smith v. Wilson, And. 187.

rects, that the instrument shall be drawn in a particular form, under a severe penalty, yet, if drawn in a different form, it is not void, and that the effect of the act is only to subject the party to a penalty¹.

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BANKERS CASH NOTES, formerly called goldsmiths notes, are in effect promissory notes given by bankers, who were originally goldsmiths². From Lord Holt's judgment in the case of Buller against Crips³, it appears that these notes were attempted to be introduced by the goldsmiths, about thirty years previously to the reign of Queen Anne, and were generally esteemed by the merchants as negotiable; but Lord Holt as strenuously opposed their negotiability as he did that of common promissory notes, and they were not generally settled to be negotiable until the Statute of Anne was passed, which relates to these as well as to common promissory notes. They appear originally to have been given by bankers to their customers, as acknowledgments for having received money for their use⁴. At present, cash notes are seldom made except by country bankers, their use having been superseded by the introduction of checks⁵. When formerly issued by London Bankers, they were sometimes called shop notes: in point of form they are similar to common promissory notes, payable to bearer on demand, and are stated in pleading as such. On account of their being payable on demand, they are considered as cash, whether payable to order or bearer⁶,

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¹ Per Holroyd, J. in *Wigan v. Fowler*, 1 Stark. 463.

² *Moor v. Warren*, 1 Stra. 415.—*Turner v. Mead*, id. ibid.—*Haward and the Bank of England*, id. 550.—*Smith's Wealth of Nations*, 1 vol. 445, 6, 7, 8. but see *Brook v. Middleton*, 1 Campb. 449. where they were treated as checks. *Selwyn N. Pri.* 4th edit. 368.

³ *Buller v. Crips*, 6 Mod. 29, 30. *Nicholson v. Sedgwick*, Lord Raym. 180.—*Horton v. Coggs*, 3 Lev. 299.

⁴ *Ford v. Hopkins*, Holt. 119.—1 Salk. 283. S. C.

⁵ See *Selwyn N. Pri.* 4th edit. 368.

⁶ *Tassel v. Lewis*, 1 Lord Raym. 744.—*Peacock v. Rhodes*, Dougl. 635.—*Owenson v. Morse*, 7 T. R. 64.

but if presented in due time, and dishonoured, they will not amount to payment¹. If any part of the consideration of an annuity be paid in country bank notes, the dates and times of payment must be set forth in the memorial, because they are not considered as cash²; and if they are deposited with a stakeholder they cannot be recovered from him as money had and received, unless he agreed to receive them as money³. They, like bankers checks, are generally transferred from one person to another by delivery. They may, however, be negotiated by indorsement, in which case the act of indorsing will operate as the making of a bill of exchange, and the instrument may be declared on as such against the indorser⁴. In other respects they are affected by the same rules as bills of exchange⁵. The time when these notes should be presented for payment, is governed by the rules relating to checks

¹ *Owenson v. Morse*, 7 T. R. 64.—*Ante*, 185.—*Ward v. Evans*, Lord Raym. 928.—*Ante*, 128. and see *ante*, 347, 8.

² *Morris v. Wall*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 208.

³ *Pickard v. Bankes*, 13 East. 20. A stakeholder receiving country bank notes as money, and paying them over wrongfully to the original staker, after he had lost the wager, is answerable to the winner, in an action for money had and received to his use. It appeared that the deposit had been made in Hull bank notes, payable to bearer, and not in coin of the realm, and the payment over to the other party was in notes of the same description. The learned Judge who tried the cause, thought that these were to be considered as money, as between these parties, and therefore the plaintiff recovered a verdict for the amount. It was afterwards moved to set aside the verdict, and by leave to enter a nonsuit. Notes of this description, it was contended, were no more than common promissory notes, or bills of exchange. If these were payable at a future day, they could in no sense be considered as money, but the time of payment cannot alter the nature of the thing. The action should rather have been trover, or upon a special assumpsit; and that Mr. Justice Lawrence, in a similar case, at Stafford, held, that money had and received would not lie. Lord Ellenborough, C. J. "Provincial notes are certainly not money; but if the defendant received them as ten guineas in money, and all parties agreed to treat them as such at the time, he shall not now turn round and say that they were only paper, and not money: As against him it is so much money received by him."—Rule refused.

⁴ *Lovel*, 58.—*Mendez v. Carreroon*, *Ld. Raym.* 743.—*Hill v. Lewis*, 1 Salk. 132, 3.—*Brown v. Harraden*, 4 T. R. 149.

⁵ *Hill v. Lewis*, 1 Salk. 132.

payable on demand, which have already been stated, and to which part of the work the reader is referred'. Sect. 2. Of Bankers notes.



BANK NOTES owe their origin to the 5 William and Mary, c. 20. s. 19, 20. 29. and the 8 and 9 William 3. c. 20. s. 30. by the first of which statutes, power was given to the king to incorporate the persons subscribing towards the raising and paying into the receipt of the exchequer the sum of £1,200,000 by the name of "The Governor and Company of the Bank of England." These notes are uniformly made payable on demand; Lord Mansfield, in *Miller v. Race*¹, observed, "that these notes are not, like bills of exchange, "mere securities, or documents for debts, nor are so "esteemed; but are treated as money in the ordinary "course and transactions of business, by the general "consent of mankind; and on payment of them, "whenever a receipt is required, the receipts are always given as for money, not as for securities or "notes." They pass by a will which bequeaths all the testator's money or cash², or all his property in such a house; and they may pass as a *donatio mortis causa*³. In bankruptcies they cannot be followed as identical and distinguishable from money. If they be lost, an action of trover will not lie against the bona fide holder by the true owner⁴. In a case, also, on the annuity act, where the whole consideration was described in the memorial as money, and it appeared that only a part of it was money, and the residue bank notes, it was decided on the above principle, that the consideration was well set out⁵. It has, however, been ad-

¹ Ante, 347 to 352.

² *Miller v. Race*, 1 Burr. 457.—See 3 Atk. 232.

³ *Fleming v. Brook*, 1 Scho. & Lefr. 318, 9.—11 Ves. jun. 662.

⁴ Ante, 2.—1 Roper, 3.

⁵ *Lowndes v. Anderson*, 13 East. 130. 135.—1 Campb. 551. ante, 190.

⁶ *Wright v. Reed*, 3 T. R. 554.—*Cousins v. Thompson*, 6 T. R. 335.

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judged, that an action for money had and received will not lie against a finder of them, to recover the value, unless money has actually been received for them¹, though if not produced on the trial, the receipt of their value will be presumed²; nor can they be taken in execution³; nor is a tender of bank notes sufficient, if objected to at the time of the offer⁴, though, after such a tender, a creditor cannot arrest his debtor, it having been enacted⁵, that no person shall be held to bail, unless the affidavit of debt allege that no offer has been made to pay the debt in bank notes payable on demand. The stealing of these notes is felony⁶, and the forgery of them is also by different statutes declared to be felony⁷. They are assignable by delivery⁸. A mode of enforcing payment of them was provided by 8 & 9 Wm. 3. c. 20, s. 30. but now when the right to receive payment is disputed, the course is to proceed by action against the bank. Possession is *prima facie* evidence of property in a bank note. Therefore, in trover for a bank note, it is not a *prima facie* case for the plaintiff to prove that the note belonged to him, and that the defendant afterwards converted it; and the defendant will not be called upon to show his title to the note, without evidence from the other side that he got possession of it *malâ fide*, or without consideration⁹. And in *Lowndes v. Anderson*¹⁰ it was held, that bank notes could not be followed by the legal owners into the

¹ *Noyes v. Price* and another, *Sittings, London, post, Hill. Term, 16 Geo. 3. Select Cas. 242.*

² *Longchamp v. Kenny*, *Dougl. 138.*

³ *Francis v. Nash*, *Rep. T. Hardw. 53.*—*Knight v. Criddle*, *9 East. 48.*

⁴ *Wright v. Reed*, *3 T. R. 554.*—*Wyatt v. Smee*, *1 Bos. & Pul. 526.*

⁵ *38 Geo. 3. c. 1. s. 8.*—*43 Geo. 2. c. 18. s. 2.*

⁶ *2 Geo. 2. c. 25. s. 3.*—*9 Geo. 2. c. 18.*

⁷ *15 Geo. 2. c. 14. s. 11.*—*13 Geo. 3. c. 79. s. 1.*—*41 Geo. 3. c. 39. 2 East's P. C. 876, &c.*

⁸ *Francis v. Nash*, *Rep. T. Hardw. 53.*

⁹ *King v. Milson*, *2 Campb. 5.*—*Richard v. Carr*, *1 Campb. 551.*

¹⁰ *Lowndes v. Anderson*, *13 East. 130.*—*1 Rose, 99, 102. n. a.*

hands of bona fide holders for valuable consideration without notice. And *Solomons v. Bank of England*¹, it was decided, that the holder of a bank note is prima facie entitled to prompt payment of it, and cannot be affected by the previous fraud of any former holder in obtaining it, unless evidence be given to bring it home to his privity. But where a bank note for £500, had been fraudulently obtained by some person unknown; and on its being presented for payment sometime afterwards, by an agent of a foreign principal, information was given of the fraud; and the principal was desired to inform the bank how he came by it; but the only account he would give of it was, that he had received it in payment of goods from a man dressed in such a way of whom he knew nothing; and it was further proved, that bank notes of so large a value were not usually circulated in that foreign country; this was held to be sufficient evidence to be left to a jury of the principal's privity to the original fraud, in an action of trover brought by his agent to recover it from the bank, who had detained it under the authority of the original owner, to whom it properly belonged. And the question was not altered by the agent who received it, having after notice, made payments for his principal, which turned the balance in favour of such agent.

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A formal set of words is, in general, no more essential to the validity of a promissory note, cash note, or bank of England note, than it is to that of a bill of exchange². It is sufficient if a note amount to an absolute promise to pay money. And a note promising to account with another, or his order, for a certain sum, value received, is a valid promissory note, though it contain no formal promise to pay³. So where the

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¹ *Solomons v. Bank of England*, 13 East. 135.

² *Colehan v. Cooke*, Willes, 396.; see the cases, ante, 53, 4.—Bayl. 3 4. Selw. 4th ed. 361, 2. 3.

³ *Morris v. Lee*, 8 Mod. 362.—1 Stra. 629.—Lord Raym. 1396. S. C.—2 Atk. 32. ante, 53, note 2.

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note set forth in the declaration, was "I acknowledge myself to be indebted to A. in £.—to be paid on demand, for value *received*;" on demurrer to the declaration, the court held that this was a good note within the statute; the words "*to be paid*," amounting to a promise to pay, observing that the same words in a lease would amount to a covenant *to pay* rent¹. So a promissory note payable to B. (omitting the words "or order,") three months after date, was holden a good note within the statute². So, where a note was in this form, "I do acknowledge that Sir A. C. has delivered to me all the bonds and notes for which £400. were paid to him on account of Colonel S. and that Sir A. delivered to me Major G.'s receipt, and bill on me for £10. which £10. and £15. 5s. a balance due to Sir A. I am still indebted, and do promise to pay;" on demurrer to the declaration the note was adjudged good³. And when the promise was by A. to pay so much to B. for a debt due from C. to B. it was holden, that it was within the statute, being an absolute promise, and as negotiable as if it had been generally for value received⁴.

But the mere acknowledgment of a debt, without some words from whence a promise to pay money can reasonably be inferred, it is said, will have no other operation than being evidence of a debt; and therefore the common memorandum, "*I O U* such a sum" has been determined not to amount to a promissory note, and need not be stamped⁵. Nor is an instrument

¹ Casborne v. Dutton, Scacc.M. 1 G. 2.—Selw. 4th ed. 863. note p.

² Smith v. Kindal, 6 T. R. 123. ante, 85, n. 5.—Moore v. Pain, Rep. T. Hardw. 283. where Lord Hardwicke, C. J. said this point had been ruled often.

³ Chadwick v. Allen, Stra. 706. ante, 53.

⁴ Popplewell v. Wilson, 1 Stra. 264. on error, from C. P.

⁵ Israel v. Israel, 1 Campb. 493.—Fisher v. Leslie, 1 Esp. Rep. 426. But in Guy v. Harris, Sittings after Easter Term, 1800, at Guildhall, in the C. P. before Lord Eldon, such a note was attempted to be given in evidence by way of set-off, but his Lordship ruled that it could not be given in evidence, not being stamped, being a promissory note, though not negotiable. Mr. Serj. Marshall for the plaintiff, Mr. Serj. Best for the defendant. See Bayl. 4.—Manning's Index, 215.

acknowledging the receipt of a draft for the payment of money, and promising to repay the money, a promissory note, but only a special agreement for the re-payment, depending on the contingency of the draft's being honoured¹. It is advisable, however, to insert the words "value received²."

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Promissory notes, given in pursuance of the Lord's act 32 Geo. 2. c. 28. s. 13., in order to prevent the debtor's discharge, must be given in a particular form, that statute enacting, that the prisoner shall be discharged, unless the creditor insist that he shall be detained in prison, and shall agree by writing, signed with his name or mark (or if he be out of England,) under the hand of his attorney, to pay and allow the prisoner weekly a sum not exceeding 8s. 6d. (or if more creditors than one insist on his detention, not exceeding 2s. a week each³), to be paid on Monday in every week, so long as the prisoner shall continue in execution; and in every such case the prisoner shall be remanded. And the court has no power to moderate the sum to be paid to a prisoner on his being remanded, but a note must be signed for the full sum directed by the act. And if failure be made in payment of the said weekly sums, the prisoner, upon application to the court in term time, or in vacation to a judge, may, by order of the court or judge, be discharged out of custody, on executing an assignment and conveyance of his estate and effects. The decisions on this clause of the act have already been so ably collected, that it is not necessary here to state them⁴.

Certain requisites are indispensable to the validity of all promissory notes⁵; thus they must be made

Requisites of notes.

¹ *Williamson v. Bennett*, 2 Campb. 417.—Ante, 60, 1.

² *Bishop v. Young*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 81.—Ante, 87, 8.

³ 37 Geo. 3. c. 85. s. 3, 4.—Tidd, 6th edit. 381.; but see Barnes, 377. 389. 390.

⁴ Tidd's Prac. 6th edit. 381 to 384.

⁵ Ante, 55 to 64.—Bayl. 4, 5, 6. and 8 to 16.

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payable at all events¹, and not out of a particular fund², which may or may not be productive. But a statement of the consideration for which a note is made will not vitiate it³. Notes must also be for the payment of money only, and not for the performance of any other act⁴; on the latter principle it was adjudged, that a written promise to pay £300 to B. or order, "in three good East India Bonds," was not a promissory note⁵; and that an undertaking "to pay money, and deliver up horses and a wharf," on a particular day⁶, or an engagement "to pay money on demand, or surrender the body of A. B."⁷ would not operate as a note within the Statute of Anne.

A promise by the defendant to pay to plaintiff £26 within a month after Michaelmas, if defendant did not pay the £26 for which the plaintiff stood engaged for his brother T. B. is not a promissory note⁸. So a promise to pay A. B. £— value received, on the death of C. D. provided he leaves either of us sufficient to pay the said sum, or if we shall be otherwise able to pay it⁹; and a promise to pay money within so many days after the maker of the note should marry, are not within the statute. So where the promise was to pay A. F. £— out of the maker's money, that should arise from his reversion of £— when sold, and the declaration averred the sale of the reversion, yet it was holden that the note could not be declared on as a negotiable note under the statute, because the money was to be paid only on a contingency¹⁰. So where the promise was to pay £— on the sale or produce, im-

¹ Ante, 55, &c.

² Ante, 55, &c.

³ Ante, 63, 4.

⁴ Ante, 58.

⁵ Bul. Ni. Pri. 272.—Ante, 58.

⁶ Id.—Martin v. Chauntry, 2 Stra. 1271.—Ante, 58. n. 4.

⁷ Ante, 55.—Jenny v. Herle, 2 Ld. Raym. 1362.—Smith v. Boehm, Gilb. Law of Evid. 93. cited Ld. Raym. 1352.—Ante, 55. note 4. Williams v. Lucas, 1 P. W. 431. note 1.

⁸ Appleby v. Biddulph, ante, 56. n. 1.

⁹ Roberts v. Peake, 1 Burr. 323.—Ante, 56.—Beardsley v. Baldwin, Stra. 1151.—7 Mod. 417.—Ante, 56.

¹⁰ Carlos v. Fancourt, 5 T. R. 482.—Ante, 57.

mediately when sold, of the White Hart, St. Albans, Herts, and the goods therein, although it was averred in the declaration, that the house and goods were sold, yet the note was considered invalid¹. The same principle was recognized in the following cases, though the notes were held good.

A promissory note was given to an infant, payable when he should come of age, viz. on such a day in such a year, this was holden good; for, per Denison, J. here is no condition or uncertainty, but it is to be paid certainly, and at all events, only the time of payment is postponed². So where the plaintiff declared in the first count on a promissory note, dated 27th May, 1732, whereby defendant promised to pay to H. D. or order, 150 guineas, ten days after the death of his father, John Cooke, for value received; which note, after the death of the father (which was laid to be the 2d April, 1741,) was duly indorsed by D. to plaintiff; and in the second count, on a promissory note, dated 15th July, 1732, whereby defendant promised to pay H. D. or order, six weeks after the death of his father, 50 guineas, for value received, the like indorsement laid after the death of the father as before. After a general verdict for plaintiff on both notes, it was insisted for defendant, on arrest of judgment, that these notes were not within the Statute 3 & 4 Ann. c. 9. After three arguments, Willes, Chief Justice, delivered the opinion of the court in favour of the plaintiff, on the ground that the notes did not depend on any contingency: that there was a certain promise to pay at the time of giving the notes, and the money, by virtue thereof, would become due and payable at one time or other, though it was uncertain when that time would come; that there was not any weight in the objection, that the maker might have died before his father, in which case the notes would have been

¹ Hill v. Halford, 2 Bos. & Pul. 413.—Ante, 58.

² Goss v. Nelson, 1 Burr. 226.—Ante, 62.

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of no value, because the same might be said of any notes payable at a distant time, that the maker might die worth nothing before the note became payable. He added, that the court thought that the averment of the death of the father before the indorsement, did not make any alteration : because they were of opinion, that if the notes were not within the statute, *ab initio*, they could not be made so by any subsequent contingency¹.

So where the note was to pay within a certain time after such a ship was paid off, it was holden good ; because the ship would certainly be paid off some time or other².

It has been said³, that in the application of the rule relative to these instruments being payable at all events, there is a distinction between bills of exchange and promissory notes, and that a note may in certain cases be payable on a contingency⁴ ; but it will appear, that the cases⁵ adduced in support of this distinction, are equally applicable to bills of exchange ; and it is now settled, that in general, if a note be payable on a contingency, it will be as inoperative as a bill payable in the same manner⁶. It has also been observed⁷, that in the application of the principle that these instruments must not be payable out of a particular fund, there is a material distinction between bills of exchange and promissory notes ; but the case⁸ adduced in support of this opinion, only shews that the statement in a bill or note, of the consideration for

¹ *Colehan v. Cooke*, Willes, 393, affirmed on error, Stra. 1217.—*Ante*, 62.

² *Andrews v. Franklin*, II, 3 G. 1. B. R. 1 Stra. 24. *Sed quare*, see *ante*, 63, as to this point.

³ Kyd. 56.

⁴ *Dawkes v. Delorain*, 2 Bla. Rep. 782.

⁵ *Cooke v. Colehan*, 2 Stra. 1217.—*Andrews v. Franklin*, 1 Stra. 24. *Goss v. Nelson*, 1 Burr. 227.—*Evans v. Underwood*, 1 Wils. 262.

⁶ *Carlos v. Fancourt*, 5 T. R. 486.—*Ante*, 57.—*Colehan v. Cooke*, Willes, 398, 9.—*Williamson v. Benwell*, 2 Campb. 417.—*Ante*, 60, 1.

⁷ Kyd. 53.

⁸ *Burchell v. Slecock*, Id. Raym. 1545.

which it was made, will not vitiate it¹. It is also settled that it is not necessary that a note, any more than a bill of exchange, should contain any words rendering it negotiable². In short, all the rules relative to the qualities of a bill of exchange, are equally applicable to notes, and it would be an unnecessary repetition to enumerate them.

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When a promissory note is made by several, and expressed "we promise to pay," it is a joint note only; but if a note be signed by several persons, and begin "I promise," &c. it is several as well as joint, and the parties may be sued jointly or severally³. But if a promissory note appears on the face of it to be the separate note of A. only, it cannot be declared on as the

¹ *Hausoullier v. Hartsink*, 7 T. R. 723.—Anonymous, Sel. Ca. 39. Et ante, 63, 4.

² *Smith v. Kendall*, 6 T. R. 23.—Ante, 85, n. 5.

³ *Clerke v. Blackstock*, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 474.—*March v. Ward*, Peake's Rep. 130.—*Butler v. Malissy*, 1 Stra. 76.—*Ovington v. Neale*, 2 Stra. 819.—*Rees v. Abbott*, Cowp. 832.—*Rice v. Shute*, 5 Burr. 2611.—Com. Dig. tit. Obligation, F. G.—*Cabell v. Vaughan*, 1 Saund. 291. b. n. 4.—*Abbot v. Smith*, 2 Bla. Rep. 947.—*Holmer v. Viner*, 1 Esp. Rep. 134.—Bayl. 24. 177, 8.—Selw. 4th ed. 368.

March v. Ward, Peake's Rep. 130. Assumpsit on a promissory note, made by the defendant and one Bowling in the following words, viz.

I promise to pay, three months after date, to W. March, £8 : 5s. for value received in fixtures.

ROBERT BOWLING.
THOMAS WARD.

It was objected, that this promissory note was joint only, and not several.—Lord Kenyon. I think this note beginning in the singular number is several as well as joint, and that the present action may be maintained on it. I remember a case tried before Mr. Moreton at Chester, exactly similar to the present, wherein I was counsel for the defendant. I persuaded the judge that it was a joint note only, and the plaintiff was nonsuited; but on an application being afterwards made to this court, they were of a contrary opinion, and a new trial was granted; the letter "I" applies to each severally. Verdict for the plaintiff.

Roberts v. Peake, 1 Burr. 323. A note signed by the defendant alone, but importing in the body of it to have been made by the defendant and another person, was declared upon as the several note of the defendant, and it was agreed that it might be declared upon according to its legal operation; but judgment was given for the defendant upon another ground. See *Sifkin v. Walker*, 2 Campb. 308.

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note of A. and B., though given to secure a debt for which A. and B. were jointly liable¹.

In an action by A. against B. upon a promissory note, it was stated in the declaration, that B. and another jointly *or* severally promised to pay it; and it was holden, that the declaration was good, for *or* was synonymous to *and*, that they both promised that they or one of them should pay, consequently both and each were liable in solidum². And it has been held, that if an action be brought on a joint note, and some of the persons making the note are not made defendants, advantage can only be taken of the omission by plea in abatement³. And if one of several makers of a promissory note be an infant, he should not be sued, nor should the declaration state that he was a party⁴; and if there be a joint and several promissory note of two persons, and one of them was a surety only for the other, and that circumstance were known to the holder, and he accept a composition from the assignees of such principal, amounting to less than the dividend

¹ *Siffkin v. Walker and others*, 2 Campb. 308.—*Emley v. Lye*, 15 East. 7.—*Ante*, 52.

² *Butler v. Malissy*, 1 Stra. 76.—In an action on a note, the declaration stated, that the defendant and another did jointly or severally promise to pay, and upon demurrer the court held it bad, and the plaintiff obtained leave to discontinue. And in *Ovington v. Neale*, Stra. 819.—*Ld. Raym.* 1544, the plaintiff declared upon a note by which the defendant and another jointly or severally promised to pay, and upon error the court of King's Bench held it bad, because the plaintiff had not shewn a title to bring a separate action against the defendant, for he only says he has this or some other cause of action, and judgment for the plaintiff was reversed.

However, in *Rees v. Abbott*, Cowp. 832, the declaration upon a note stated, that the defendant and another made their note, by which they jointly or severally promised to pay, and upon error after judgment by default. *Butler v. Malissy*, and *Ovington v. Neale*, were cited as in point. *Sed per Lord Mansfield*. "If '*or*' is to be considered in this case as a disjunctive, the plaintiff is to elect, and by the action he has made, his election to consider the note as several, but in this case it is synonymous to '*and*,' and both and each promise to pay." Judgment affirmed.

³ *Per Buller, J.* in *Rees v. Abbott*, Cowp. 832.—See *ante*, p. 433, note 3.—*Schw.* 4th. ed. 369.

⁴ *Burgess v. Merrill*, 4 Taunt. 468.—1 Chitty on Plead. 3d ed. 35.

payable under his commission, it has been held that this conduct releases the surety from liability ¹.

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The amount of the stamp duties imposed on notes until the 10th October, A. D. 1808, was regulated by the 44 Geo. 3. c. 98, schedule A. The amount of the duties from that time until the 10th October, A. D. 1808, were regulated by the statute 48 Geo. 3. c. 149. The present stamp duties on notes are regulated by the 55 Geo. 3. c. 184, and these are the same as the stamps on bills, except as to notes *re-issuable* after payment by the maker.

The regulations with respect to the stamps on notes in general, and in particular to re-issuable notes, and the licencing bankers to draw and re-issue the same, have already been mentioned ², and the statute itself will be found in the Appendix.

Bank notes are exempted from the stamp duty by the 23 Geo. 3. c. 40. s. 9, and other subsequent statutes, in consideration of the payment of the annual sum of £12,000 into the receipt of his majesty's exchequer. The decisions on the former and present stamp acts already stated, are here applicable ³.

¹ Garrett v. Jull, B. R. Mich. 22 Geo. 3. MS. Selw. 4th ed. 369. An action was brought against defendant only on a joint and several note, made by defendant and one Stoddart. Plea, non-assumpsit. Defendant gave in evidence an agreement in writing, entered into by plaintiff with the assignees of Stoddart, then a bankrupt, to receive from them £600 in lieu of £883, actually due from the bankrupt on this note, (which was for £100) and on other transactions; and that defendant was only surety for Stoddart.—Defendant obtained a verdict. On motion to set it aside, it was resisted on the part of the defendant, on the ground that the agreement put an end to the plaintiff's recovery on the note, that the principal could not be discharged without discharging the surety also.—On the part of the plaintiff it was urged, that it was not the meaning of the agreement that the defendant should be discharged. But per Lord Mansfield, C. J. the plaintiff was party to the agreement, and we cannot receive parol evidence to explain it. Whatever might be the intention of the parties, the principal cannot be released without its operating for the benefit of the surety. Rule discharged. *As to this point see ante* 385, 6.

² Ante, 68.

³ Ante, 69 to 76.

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&c.

In all points in which a distinction between bills of exchange and promissory notes, has not been pointed out, the rules relative to the one, equally apply to the other, and therefore it will not be necessary to make any further observations in the present chapter.

PART SECOND.

The REMEDIES on a Bill, Check, or Note.

IN the preceding part of this work, I have endeavoured to point out the nature of the RIGHT which may be acquired by the instruments which are the subject of this Treatise. The REMEDY which the law affords the parties to enforce payment, forms the remaining head of enquiry. In this part of the work no distinct observations on bills and notes will be necessary, as the same remedies are given by law on both species of instrument, except that in some cases debt is not sustainable on a promissory note, which distinction will be pointed out. The means of enforcing payment, are either by *action of assumpsit*, or *debt*, or, where the party is a *bankrupt*, by *proof* under the commission. In the consideration of the above mentioned actions, the pleas and defences, and the evidence to be adduced by each party, will also be considered.

CHAPTER I.

BY, AND AGAINST WHOM, AN ACTION OF ASSUMPSIT
ON A BILL, CHECK, OR NOTE, MAY BE SUPPORTED.

THE action of ASSUMPSIT is by far the most usual remedy on bills, checks, and notes; and indeed it appears to be the only remedy where no privity of contract exists between the parties, as between the indorsee and the acceptor of a bill, and a remote indorsee and maker of a note, in which case debt is not maintainable¹, or when the action is against an executor or administrator, against whom debt on simple contract is not in general sustainable².

With respect to the *persons, by, or against whom*, this action may be brought³, it may be observed, in general, that whenever a legal right is created, or liability imposed, through the medium of these instruments, that right may be asserted, and that liability enforced, by this action. Therefore a person may sue on a note payable to him, though in trust for a third party⁴. And the wife may join with her husband in an action on a note made payable to her during the coverture⁵. When there are several indorsers, it is not necessary that the action should be brought in the name of the holder, or of the last indorser: they may arrange the matter among themselves, and any one indorser may sue the acceptor or drawer, instead of the preceding indorser, striking out all the names

¹ Bishop v. Young, 2 Bos. & Pul. 78.

² Barry v. Robinson, 1 New Rep. 293.

³ Poth. tit. Contrat de change, part 1, chap. 5. art. 2. per totum.

⁴ Smith v. Kendall, 1 Esp. Rep. 231.—6 T. R. 123. S. C.—Randall v. Bell, 1 M. & S. 723.

⁵ Philliskirk et ux v. Pluckwell, 2 M. & S. 393.—Ante, 25.—1 Chitty on Plead. 3d ed. 20.

below his own¹. Where a merchant, carrying on trade on his own separate account, introduces into his firm the name of a clerk, who has no participation in profit or loss, but continues to receive a fixed salary, it was held, that in an action on a bill of exchange payable to the order of this firm, the clerk must be joined as a plaintiff², unless it be distinctly proved that he had no interest³. And if a party, who has commenced an action on a bill, deposit it afterwards as a security in the hands of a third person, he may still proceed in the action, if the latter knew that the action was commenced; and if such third person, having had this notice, commence another action against the same defendant, the court will stay his proceedings⁴. And the drawer of a bill, after taking it up, may sue and arrest a bankrupt acceptor, who has not obtained his certificate, although a previous holder, has proved under the commission⁵.

The *bonâ fide* holder of a bill, check, or note, may in general maintain an action thereon against all the parties to it, whose names are to it, and who became so *previously* to himself⁶. Thus the *payee* may, in default of payment, sue the acceptor, whether he accepted as drawee, or merely for the honour of the drawer, and he may also, in such case, sue the drawer. An *indorsee* may, in general, not only sue the acceptor and drawer, but also all the prior indorsers; and an assignee, by mere delivery, may sue the acceptor, drawer, and indorsers, but he cannot maintain an ac-

¹ Per Eyre, C. J. in *Walwyn v. St. Quintin*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 658.—This doctrine was recognized in *Parnell v. Townend*, Trin. Term, 58 Geo. 3., on an argument of a demurrer, see post. But if a bill were really the property of another, and put into the hands of a defendant to set off against a claim on him, that might present a different question. Per Lord Ellenborough, in *Cornforth v. Revett*, 2 M. & S. 512.

² *Guidon v. Mary Robson*, 2 Campb. 302.

³ 1 Chitty on Plead. 3d ed. 8.

⁴ *Marsh v. Newell*, 1 Taunt. 109.—And see the observations of Abbot, J. in *Randall v. Bell*, 1 M. & S. 723.

⁵ *Mead v. Braham*, 3 M. & S. 91.

⁶ *Bishop v. Hayward*, 4 T. R. 471.

tion against any person whose name is not on the bill, except the person who assigned it to him¹, and then only when the consideration of the transfer was a precedent debt, or a debt arising at the time, and not when he became the holder by discounting the bill upon a purchase thereof, as some times occurs². However, a person to whom the drawer of a bill which had been accepted for value, has indorsed it after it was dishonoured, and after it had been paid by the drawer, may sue the acceptor in his own name³.

The *drawer* may maintain an action on the bill against the drawee, in case of a refusal to pay a bill already accepted, but not on a refusal to accept, in which latter case the action by him must be on the original consideration of the bill, or in some cases specially on the contract to accept; and any party who has given value for the bill, and has been obliged to pay in consequence of the default of the acceptor, may maintain an action thereon against all the parties antecedent to himself, and in this case he is said to hold the bill in his original capacity⁴; and the drawer of a bill, payable to the order of a *third* person, may, when the bill has been returned to him, and he has paid it, sue the acceptor⁵.

¹ Ante, 184, 5, 6, 7.

² Ante, 188.

³ See *Callow v. Laurence*, 3 M. & S. 97, ante, 168, which explains *Bacon v. Searles*, 1 Hen. Bla. 88.

⁴ *Cowley v. Dunlop*, 7 T. R. 571.—*Death v. Serwonters*, Lutw. 885. 888.—*Bosanquet v. Dudman*, 1 Stark. 2, 3.

⁵ *Symonds v. Parminter*, 1 Wils. 185.—4 Bro. P. C. 604.—The plaintiff drew a bill upon the defendant, to the order of Cleer and Co. which the defendant accepted, but did not pay; the plaintiff paid it, and brought this action. The declaration stated, that the plaintiff drew the bill; that the defendant accepted, but did not pay it; that the plaintiff became liable and did pay it, by reason whereof the defendant became liable and promised. The defendant demurred, and afterwards moved in arrest of judgment, and contended that the action could not lie; but the court, after two arguments upon the demurrer, and one on motion in arrest of judgment, were of opinion that it would, and judgment was given for the plaintiff. The defendant brought a writ of error in parliament, but did not appear at the bar to support it, and judgment was affirmed.

Louviere v. Laubray, 10 Mod. 36. The plaintiff drew a bill upon the defendant, which the defendant accepted, but afterwards refused

Where the holder of a bill sued the acceptor and charged him in execution, and the latter having obtained his discharge under the Lords act, the holder then sued the drawer, who after paying the bill sued the acceptor, and charged him in execution, this was held to be regular¹. In the case of an acceptance for the accommodation of the drawer, such acceptor, if he has been obliged to pay, may sue the drawer on his implied contract to indemnify him, but not on the bill itself², though we have seen that he may retain money in his hands as an indemnity³; and a person not originally party to a bill, having paid it *supra protest*, may maintain an action against all, or any of the parties to it, except the person whom he paid⁴; but the bail of the *maker* of a promissory note, who have paid it, cannot sue the indorsers⁵; and a banker who pays the acceptance of a customer, who has made it

to pay; upon this the bill was indorsed to the plaintiff, and the question was, whether he could maintain an action as indorsee; and per Parker, C. J. upon evidence that he had effects in the hands of the defendant enough to answer the bill, and consequently that the acceptance was not upon the honour of the plaintiff, the action is well brought, but if there were no effects, the action would not lie, and the plaintiff recovered.

¹ Macdonald v. Bovington, 4 T. R. 825, ante, 384, and Mead v. Braham, 3 M. & S. 91.

² Young v. Hockley, 3 Wils. 346.

³ Ante, 255.

⁴ Ante, 313, 4.

Mertens v. Winnington, 1 Esp. Rep. 112. A bill was drawn by the defendant, and indorsed by Burton, Forbes, and Gregory. The plaintiff paid it for the honour of Burton, Forbes, and Gregory, and brought this action against the defendant as drawer; the defendant contended that a person who paid for the honour of one of the parties, could only sue that party; but Lord Kenyon said he was to be considered as an indorsee, paying full value for the bill, and he directed the jury to find for the plaintiff.

⁵ Hull v. Pitfield, 1 Wils. 46.—Bayl. 148.

The indorsee of a note sued the maker, and on payment by his bail, permitted them to sue the indorser in his (the indorsees) name, but the court held that the payment of the money to the plaintiff by the bail for the drawer, was the same thing as if the drawer himself had paid it, and that the note was thereby absolutely discharged and satisfied; that the indorser of a note is only a warrantor thereof; that the drawer will pay it, and if he does not, that the indorser will, and that it is the same thing whether the drawer himself paid the money, or his friend, as the bail did in this case.

payable at his banking house, cannot sue thereon, as he does not stand in the situation of a party paying *supra protest*’.

But unless, under circumstances which must be specially stated on the record, no action can be maintained on a bill against a person who became party to it *subsequently* to the holder or plaintiff, for if it were otherwise, the defendant in such action might, as an indorsee deriving from the plaintiff, be entitled to recover back again, in another action against the plaintiff, the identical sum which he, the plaintiff, had previously recovered from him, which would introduce a circuitry of action; and therefore where A. having declared on a promissory note against B. made by C. to A. and indorsed by him to B., and by B. again indorsed to A. and having obtained a verdict, the judgment was arrested¹.

A plaintiff cannot in general maintain his action against the person from whom he received the bill, unless he gave him a valuable consideration for it².

We have before seen, what objections may be taken in an action at the suit of a person attempting to derive an interest in a bill, by a transfer after it was due

¹ *Holroyd v. Whitehead*, 5 Taunt. 444.—1 Marsh. 128.—3 Campb. 530. S. C.

² *Bishop v. Hayward*, 4 T. R. 470.—*Mainwaring v. Newman*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 125.

Bishop v. Hayward, 4 T. R. 470. The plaintiff declared upon a note payable to himself or order, indorsed by him to the defendant, and by the defendant indorsed back again to him, and obtained a verdict. A rule was granted to shew cause why the judgment should not be arrested, on the ground that according to the statement in the declaration, the plaintiff would be liable upon his indorsement to pay the defendant the sum, for which the verdict was given, and upon cause shewn, the court held the objection good, because as the plaintiff had not stated it to be otherwise, his indorsement was to be considered as a legal existing indorsement; had any circumstances existed which exempted the plaintiff from answering upon his indorsement to the defendant, they should have been disclosed upon the record, and the declaration framed specially.

³ Ante, 88 to 95.—*Mitchinson v. Hewson*, 7 T. R. 350.—*Cowley v. Dunlop*, id. 571.—*Death v. Serwonters*, 1 Lutw. 886.—*Simmonds v. Parminter*, 1 Wils. 185.—4 Bro. P. C. 704. acc.—2 Bla. Com. 446. contra; but see Mr. Christian’s note.

or paid¹; and what *laches*, in the holder of a bill, will operate as a forfeiture of his right of action². If the holder of a bill make the acceptor his executor, and die, the right of action at law against all the parties is extinguished, unless the executor formerly renounces³. Where a note or bill made by several, is joint and several, it is advisable to proceed in separate actions, if there be any doubt in proving the joint liability of all⁴.

Whenever the holder of a bill, &c. has a remedy against several parties to it, he may commence and proceed in several actions against each of those parties at the same time; and an action commenced against one, will not preclude any other remedy against the others; but as the different persons liable on the bill are debtors to the holder in respect of the same debt, satisfaction by any one will discharge the others from liability as to the principal sum due on the bill⁵, and if the holder reject an offer by a drawer or indorser of a bill, to pay debt and costs of the action against him, the court will make an order⁶ to restrain

¹ Ante, 163 to 168.

² Ante, 256 to 309.

³ Poth. pl. 191.—1 Rol. Abr. 922.—Woodward v. Lord Darcy, Plowd. 184.—Paramour v. Yardley, id. 542.—Wankford v. Wankford, 1 Salk. 299.—2 Bla. Com. 511, 2.—3 Bla. Com. 18.—Mainwaring v. Newman, 2 Bos. & Pul. 124, 5.

⁴ Gray v. Palmer, 1 Esp. Rep. 135, 6.

⁵ Windham v. Withers, 1 Stra. 515.—Poth. pl. 160.—Bayl. 151.—Burgess v. Merrell, 4 Taunt. 468.—Ex parte Wildman, 2 Ves. sen. 115. Lord Hardwicke. In cases of bills of exchange or promissory notes, where there is a drawer and indorser, perhaps there may be more than one judgment against all, but there can be but one satisfaction.

Windham v. Withers, 1 Stra. 515. The plaintiff having obtained judgment against the drawer and indorser of a note, the principal in one and the costs in both were offered him, which he refused, and the court granted a rule to restrain him from taking out execution, and intimated that they would have punished him, had he taken out execution upon both judgments.

Claxton v. Swift, 2 Show. 441. 494.—Lutw. 882. To an action against the indorser of a bill, the defendant pleaded that the plaintiff had recovered a judgment against the drawer, and that the judgment was still in force, and upon demurrer the court of King's Bench held the plea good, but the court of Exchequer Chamber held otherwise, and the judgment was reversed.

the holder from taking out execution ; though if the money be paid pending several actions against other parties to the bill, the plaintiff may, without reserving any part of the principal money, proceed in the actions for the recovery of the costs¹.

.. It is settled, that when two persons are *severally*, as well as jointly, bound in a bond, and one of them be taken in execution in a separate action, the other may, nevertheless, be sued, because the taking *another's person* in execution, is but the mere security for the payment of a debt, and not a valuable satisfaction of it². It was made a question in the last century, how far this doctrine was applicable to bills of exchange ; but it is now settled, that a judgment³, or even an execution, against the *person* of any one of the parties to the bill, will not discharge the others, though with respect to him it is a full satisfaction of the debt⁴. It is also settled, that the holder's letting a subsequent indorser in execution out of prison on a letter of licence, will not discharge a *prior* indorser from his liability to pay the bill⁵ ; and that if an acceptor be discharged under an insolvent debtor's act, such discharge will not operate in favour of any other person⁶. But if the holder of a bill accept a bond from the drawer, or any other party, in satisfaction of it, such act will discharge other subsequent parties⁷ ; and we have before seen⁸, that compromising with the acceptor,

¹ *Toms v. Powell*, 7 East. 536.—6 Esp. Rep. 40. S. C.—3 East. 316.—3 Campb. 331.—1 Holt, C. N. P. 6.

² *Blemfield's case*, 5 Co. 86.—Bayl. 151.—*Clerk v. Withers*, Lord Raym. 1072.—1 Salk. 322. S. C.—*Claxton v. Swift*, 2 Show. 494.—*Foster v. Jackson*, Hob. 59.—Bayl. 151, 2.

³ *Ayrey v. Davenport*, 2 New Rep. 474.—*Claxton v. Swift*, 3 Mod. 87.—2 Show. 494.—Lutw. 878. 882. S. C.—Bayl. 151, 2.

⁴ *Id. ibid.*—*Macdonald v. Bovington*, 4 T. R. 825.

⁵ *Ante*, 380, 1.—*Haylin v. Mullhall*, 2 Bla. Rep. 1235.—*English v. Darley*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 61.—*Clark v. Clement*, 6 T. R. 525.—Bayl. 151.

⁶ *Macdonald v. Bovington*, 4 T. R. 825.—*Nadin v. Battie*, 5 East. 147.

⁷ *Ante*, 302.—*Claxton v. Swift*, 3 Mod. 87.—*English v. Darley*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 61.

⁸ *Ante*, 385.

without the assent of the drawer or indorsers, will release them from their engagements. Actual payment of what is due, will, of course, discharge the parties; and though the holder of a bill may issue execution against the *person* of all the parties, he cannot, after levying the amount of the debt on the *goods* of one, issue a *feri facias* to affect the goods of another¹.

¹ Windham v. Withers, 1 Stra. 515.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE AFFIDAVIT TO HOLD TO BAIL, ARREST, BAIL ABOVE, AND DECLARATION IN ASSUMPSIT UPON A BILL, CHECK, OR NOTE.

Affidavit to hold to bail.

IN order to *arrest* a party in an action on a bill of exchange or promissory note, the statute 12 Geo. 1. c. 29. requires that an *affidavit* should be made and filed of the *cause of action*, and by the terms of that act the sum due on the instrument must amount to £10, which regulation is not altered by the 51 Geo. 3. c. 124. s. 21. which renders it necessary that the debt shall be £15, in other cases. This affidavit must be certain and explicit, and so positive, that in case it were untrue, the party making it would be liable to an indictment for perjury¹. It has been well observed, that the strictness required in these affidavits is not only to guard defendants against the consequences of perjury, but also those who make the affidavit against any misconception of the law; and that the leaning should always be to great strictness of construction, where one party is to be deprived of his liberty by the act of another². There has been some contradiction in the cases in the King's Bench and Common Pleas³. But from the most recent cases it appears, that the practice of both the courts is now uniform⁴.

In an action against the *maker* of a note, or the *acceptor* of a bill, who are primarily liable, it is necessary to state in the affidavit, that it was due, or at least to shew the date and when it was payable, for other-

¹ Tidd. 6th ed. 186.

² Per Lord Ellenborough in *Taylor v. Forbes*, 10 East. 316. and see *Bradshaw v. Saddington*, 7 East. 95.

³ Tidd. 6th ed. 186, 7.

⁴ And see *Machu v. Fraser*, 7 Taunt. 173.

wise the party being primarily liable, the affidavit that he was indebted might be true, and yet the note or bill might not be due at the time of swearing the affidavit, because the maker of a promissory note, or the acceptor of a bill, becomes debtor immediately, though the instrument be payable at a future day: it being debitum in præsentì solvendum in futuro¹. And the same point has recently been determined in the court of Common Pleas, in an action against the acceptor of a bill².

Affidavit to hold
to bail.

But in an action against the *indorser* of a bill or note, who can only be liable in default of the acceptor or maker, and whose liability is only collateral and conditional, it has been decided not to be necessary to shew that the bill or note is over due, for this case has been distinguished from the former, because the party being described as an indorser, and as such only a collateral security, could not be indebted, unless the bill had become due and been dishonored³.

The affidavit must also shew in what character the *defendant* became a party to the bill or note, whether as drawer, acceptor, or indorser, for otherwise he might not be liable on the bill, but merely as a guarantee, in which case the nature of his engagement must be stated, as the statute requires an affidavit of the cause of action, and the distinction is between the omission of the plaintiff's title to sue, and the character in which the defendant stands⁴. And therefore an affidavit, stating that the defendant was indebted to the plaintiff in the sum of £95 as the *indorsee* of a certain bill of exchange, drawn by one T. Winslow, without stating how the defendant became liable, whether as acceptor or indorser, was held insufficient⁵, and

¹ Per Bayley, J. in *Jackson v. Yate*, 2 M. & S. 149. and see the same distinction taken in *Holcombe v. Lambkin*, 2 M. & S. 475.

² *Machu v. Fraser*, 7 Taunt. 171.

³ Per Bayley, J. *Jackson v. Yate*, 2 M. & S. 149.—*Davison v. March*, 1 New Rep. 157.—*Holcombe v. Lambkin*, 2 M. & S. 475.

⁴ *Humphries v. Williams*, 2 Marsh. 231. 6 Taunt. 531. S. C.

⁵ *Id. ibid.*

Affidavit to hold
to bail.

the term *indorsee* is descriptive of the relation of the plaintiff to the bill and not of the defendant¹.

But it is not necessary for the affidavit to specify in what particular character the debt is due to the *plaintiff*, whether he claim as payee or indorsee, for if he had no interest in the bill on which he could sue the defendant, he would be guilty of perjury, and would be liable to an action for maliciously holding the defendant to bail², and though it was once decided otherwise in the court of Common Pleas³, yet it has been since observed by that court, that such decision took place without the case of *Bradshaw v Saddington* having been cited, and in the latest case that court appears to have determined to adopt the practice of the court of King's Bench⁴.

Where a party to a bill has signed his Christian name only with initials, and application has been made to him for his name, and he has refused to disclose it, and all possible enquiries have been made to ascertain it without effect, the affidavit and proceedings may state only his initials, and the court will not discharge him on common bail, or set aside the proceeding⁵. In order to hold to bail in trover for a bill of exchange, it should be stated in the affidavit that such bill remains unpaid, as well as the value⁶. The usual forms of affidavits are given in the Appendix.

Of the Arrest.

When a married woman has been arrested as the *acceptor* of a bill, at the suit of an *indorsee*, the court will not order the bail-bond to be cancelled on an affidavit, that the *drawer* when he drew the bill knew the defendant to be a married woman, because her so accepting a negotiable security, and enabling the

¹ Noted in *Machu v. Fraser*, 7 Taunt. 172.

² Per curiam, in *Bradshaw v. Saddington*, 7 East. 94.

³ *Balb v. Batley*, 1 Marsh. 424. 6 Taunt. 25. S. C.

⁴ *Machu v. Fraser*, 7 Taunt. 171. and see *Humphries v. Williams*, 2 Marsh. 231. in which Gibbs, C. J. adverted to the distinction between the plaintiff's title and the defendant's liability.

⁵ *Howell v. Coleman*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 466.

⁶ *Clark v. Cawthorne*, 7 T. R. 321.

drawer to impose upon a third person, is in effect re-
 presenting herself as a single woman to the injury
 of a third person, but she must find special bail, and
 plead her coverture, or bring a writ or error¹. And
 where a woman was arrested as the *drawer* of a bill
 of exchange, at the suit of an indorser, the court re-
 fused to discharge her, on the affidavit of a third per-
 son, that she was a married woman; and in all cases
 it should seem that a feme covert, applying to be
 discharged from arrest, must found her application
 upon her own personal oath of the fact of coverture,
 and not upon the affidavit of another².

An indorser of a bill of exchange may be bail for the
 drawer in an action against him upon the same bill,
 though it be objected that he is inadmissible, inas-
 much as the plaintiff's security will not be increased
 by the recognizance of the indorser, who is already
 liable to the plaintiff on the bill³. And it has been
 recently determined, that if a party become bail in two
 separate actions against different parties, on the same
 bill, it is sufficient for him to swear, that he is worth
 double the amount of the sum sworn to in one action,
 and that it is not necessary for the bail to swear to
 double the amount in both actions⁴.

In an action on a bill of exchange, check, or pro-
 missory note, if between the original parties, it is at
 the option of the plaintiff to declare either upon the
 instrument itself, or upon the consideration for which
 it was given; but in the case of remote parties, as the
 indorser against the acceptor of a bill, or the maker of

¹ *Pritchard v. Cowlan*, 2 Marsh. 40.—Tidd. 6th ed. 201, 2.—*Jones v. Lewis*, 2 Marsh. 385. 7 Taunt. 55. S. C.

² *Jones v. Lewis*, 2 Marsh. 385. 7 Taunt. 55. S. C.

³ *Hains v. Manley*, 2 B. & P. 526.

⁴ *Moore's Rep. C. P.* 29. and see Tidd's Practice, 267.

The declaration. a note, and where independently of the bill, there is no privity of contract between the parties, the instrument itself must be declared on, adding such of the common counts as the evidence may probably support; but it is always advisable to declare on the instrument itself, as then in case of a judgment by default, the amount of the damages are referred to the master, to be computed by him; but if the declaration do not state the bill, the plaintiff must execute a writ of inquiry¹.

Count stating the bill, &c.

The declaration, or *count*, in which the *bill, check, or note, is set forth*, necessarily varies in point of form, according to the parties by, and against whom, the action is brought. In the Appendix will be introduced all the different forms which usually occur in practice, and notes to each will be subjoined, explanatory of the proper mode of forming the declaration in each case.

With respect to the *venue*, as bills of exchange and promissory notes, like bonds, are bona notabilia wherever they happen to be, the plaintiff has a right to lay his venue in any county; and the court will not, at the instance of the defendant, change it upon an affidavit that it was really made in a different county². And if an action be bona fide brought on a promissory note, the plaintiff may retain the venue, though the action be also for other causes; and the court will not restrain the plaintiff from proceeding in the county he has elected for the other causes³. But it would not suffice to retain the venue, that the plaintiff should introduce a count upon a promissory note, which either did not exist, or in respect of which there was no subsisting cause of action⁴. And as in the case of an action on a bond, if very special grounds for changing the venue be laid before the

¹ Osborne v. Noad, 8 T. R. 648.

² Tidd's Prac. 6th ed. 633.

³ Shepherd v. Green, 5 Taunt. 576.

⁴ Id. ibid.

court by affidavit, as that there are several material and necessary witnesses who reside at a great distance from the county where the venue is laid; the court will change the venue, especially if the defendant admit a particular fact, which, in point of form, exists in the original county¹.

Count stating the bill, &c.

It was formerly usual to commence the declaration on a bill of exchange, with a *statement setting out the custom of merchants* relative to the validity of bills of exchange, and that the parties to it were persons within the custom; but this mode of declaring has long been disused, and is improper²; and though it is usual to state that the bill was drawn and accepted "according to the usage and custom of merchants, from time immemorial used and approved of," yet even this reference to the custom in any part of the declaration is unnecessary³. In declarations on promissory notes made in England, it is usual to state that the defendant became liable to pay by force of the statute of Anne, which renders these instruments negotiable⁴; but this is unnecessary. And if the note be made out of England, it would be improper, and perhaps fatal, to state that the note was made according to the statute⁵.

In stating the *cause of action*, there are four points principally to be attended to. *First*, The description of the bill, promissory note, or check. *Secondly*, How

¹ Tidd's Prac. 6th ed. 635.

² *Soper v. Dible*, 1 Lord Raym. 175.—*Bromwich v. Loyd*, 2 Lutw. 1585.—Co. Lit. 89 a. n. 7.

Soper v. Dible, Lord Raym. 175. In an action upon a bill the defendant demurred, because the declaration did not set out the custom, and the court held it unnecessary, and that the better way was to omit it.

³ *Hussey v. Jacob*, 1 Lord Raym. 88.—*Ereskin v. Murray*, 2 Lord Raym. 1542.—*Carter v. Dowrish*, Carth. 83.—*Williams v. Williams*, id. 269.—*Mannin v. Cary*, 1 Lutw. 279.

This was determined in *Ereskin v. Murray*, 2 Lord Raym. 1542. On error after judgment by default, see Lord Raym. 88.—Carth. 83. Lutw. 279.

⁴ *Brown v. Harraden*, 4 T. R. 155.

⁵ *Carr v. Shaw*, ante, 419.—Bayl. 18.

Count stating the
bill, &c.

the defendant became party to it; and his consequent contract. *Thirdly*, The mode by which the plaintiff derived his interest in, and right of action on, the instrument; and, *Lastly*, The breach of the defendant's contract.

These will suffice without any statement of a *consideration* which is implied¹.

1st. The statement
of the bill, &c.

And *first*, the bill, promissory note, or check (of which a profert is not to be made²), should like all other contracts be stated in the declaration, as it was really made in terms, or according to its legal operation³; and if there be a *variance* in any material point, it will be fatal⁴, though stated under a *videlicet*⁵.

Thus where in an action on a note made by the firm of Austin, Strobell, and *Shirtliff* in those names, the declaration was against them by the names of Austin Strobell and *Shutliff*, and stated that such defendants made the note, the variance was holden fatal⁶; and if a bill drawn by the name of Conch be declared upon in an action against a third person, as drawn by Crouch, such variance is also fatal⁷. And under a count for usury, in discounting bills, one of which was described as drawn on a certain person, to wit, John K. it is a fatal variance, if the bill produced appear to be drawn on Abraham K.⁸

So where in an action by the indorsee against the acceptor, the declaration described the bill as drawn

¹ Ante, 12, 13. 87, &c.—*Bishop v. Young*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 81.

² *Master v. Miller*, 4 T. R. 338.—*Odams v. The Duke of Grafton*, Bunb. 243.—*Suister v. Coel*, 1 Sid. 386.—1 Salk. 215.—Com. Dig. tit. Pleader, O. 3.—Tidd. 6th ed. 618.

³ Per Gibbs, C. J. in *Waugh v. Russel*, 1 Marsh. 217.—*Heys v. Heselstine*, 2 Campb. 604.—Selw. 4th ed. 350.—1 Chitty on Plead. 3d ed. 297. 303. 308.

⁴ *Bristow v. Wright*, Dougl. 667.—*Gordon v. Austin*, id. 4 T. R. 611. as to variances in general, see 1 vol. of Chitty on Pleading, 3d ed. 303, &c.

⁵ *White v. Wilson*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 116.—1 Chitty on Pleading, 368.

⁶ *Gordon v. Austin*, 4 T. R. 611.—N. B. There is a singular difference between the folio and octavo editions in the statement of this case, the last does not notice the mistake in the *surname*, which was the material objection.

⁷ *Whitwell v. Bennett*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 559.—Selw. 4th ed. 349.

⁸ *Hutchinson v. Piper*, 4 Taunt. 810.

by one *William* Turner, and indorsed by the said *William* Turner to the plaintiff, and the bill produced in evidence was drawn by Wingfield Turner, the variance was held fatal¹. But where the promissory note was signed "for Bowes, Hodgsons, *Key*, and Co." and they were sued, and one of them was declared against by the name of *Thomas Kay* (but whose real name was *John Key*, commonly pronounced Kay), the judge was of opinion, that the misnomer was no objection, it being proved that the *real* partner had been sued, and served with the process, though under a mistaken *christian* name; and that the variance between Key and Kay was immaterial, they being idem sonans². And in another case where the plaintiff declared in the name of Edward Boughton upon a bill of exchange, drawn by him, payable to his own order, and accepted by the defendant, and also upon the common counts, and it appeared that the plaintiff's real name was *Edmund*, and that in that name he had drawn the bill, yet the plaintiff recovered³. And it has been recently held, that a variance between the real name of an *indorser*, and that which is alleged in the declaration, and appears on the bill, is immaterial⁴.

1st. The statement of the bill, &c.

If one of several persons, acceptors of a bill, were an infant, the holder may declare on it, as accepted by the adult only, in the names of both; and if the defendant pleads in abatement, that the other partner ought also to have been sued, the plaintiff may reply his infancy; and it is no departure, and it is most proper, not to state that the infant was a party to the instrument⁵. And if a bill of exchange purports to have been drawn by a firm consisting of several per-

¹ *Le Sage v. Johnson*, Forrest's Rep. 23.

² *Dickenson v. Bowes and Others*, 16 East. 110.

³ *Boughton v. Frere*, 3 Campb. 29, but note, it does not appear from the report whether the plaintiff only recovered upon the common counts.

⁴ *Forman v. Jacob*, 1 Stark. 47.

⁵ *Burgees v. Merrill*, 4 Taunt. 468.—1 Chitty on Plead. 3d ed. 35.

1st. The statement
of the bill, &c.

sons (as by "Ellis, Needham, jun. and Co."), in an action by an indorsee against the acceptor, the declaration may aver in the plural that certain *persons* using the firm drew and indorsed the bill, although in point of fact the firm consisted only of a single individual, the acceptor being estopped from disputing the fact¹. So where a declaration described a bill of exchange as directed to the three defendants, and accepted by them, and it was proved to have been directed to, and accepted by a fourth party also, who was dead, this was held no variance²; and in an action against one of several makers of a joint or several promissory note, the describing it as the separate note of the defendant without noticing the other parties, is no variance³.

If it be alledged in the declaration, that defendant on such a day (without laying it under a *videlicet*) drew a bill of exchange without alleging that it bore date on that day, a mistake of the day will not be material, but if the words "bearing date the same day and year aforesaid" be inserted, then a variance would be fatal⁴. In general the date of the bill or note should be stated, and if there be no date, then the day it was made, and if that cannot be ascertained, then the first day it can be proved to have existed⁵. And where in an action on a foreign bill payable at double usance from the date thereof, and the declaration stated the bill to have been drawn on such a day, but did not state the date, the court held it sufficient, and that they would intend that it was dated at the time of drawing it⁶. And where a second count stated, that afterwards, to wit, on the day and year aforesaid, the defendant drew a certain other bill of exchange, payable two months after the date

¹ Bass v. Clive, 4 Campb. 78.—4 M. & S. 13. S. C.

² Mountstephen v. Brooke and Others, 1 Bar. & Ald. 224.

³ Id. *ibid.* and ante, 433, 4.

⁴ Coxon v. Lyon, 2 Campb. 307, 8.—Selw. 4th ed. 350.—Fitzgib. 130.

⁵ Ante, 77.—Bayl. 174, 5.

⁶ De la Courier v. Bellamy, 2 Show. 422. approved of in Hague v. French, 3 Bos. & Pul. 173.

thereof, without mentioning any express date in either count, the last count was held sufficient, the court intending the date to have been the day on which the bill was alleged to have been made¹. If a bill or note by mistake, has been dated contrary to the intention of the parties, the declaration may run thus, "on &c. (the time intended) at, &c. made, &c. bearing date by mistake, on, &c. but meant and intended by the said A. B. and C. D. to be dated on the said, &c. and then and there delivered, &c. by which said note he the said C. D. then and there promised to pay, two months after the date thereof, (that is to say, after the said, &c. when the said note was so made and intended to be dated as aforesaid,) to the said A. B." &c. It has been held, that in a declaration upon a bill or note importing to be payable within a limited time after the date, and dated on a particular day, the precise day must be stated, and that if a day upwards of six years before the commencement of the action be stated, and the defendant plead *actio non accrevit*, the plaintiff cannot recover², but this doctrine may be questionable³.

1st. The statement of the bill, &c.

It is usual also to state the place at which the bill or note was drawn, as thus "that the drawer on, &c. at Liverpool, to wit, at London, &c. (the venue)". It has been considered that in a declaration on a *foreign* bill, the place at which it bears date must be stated, and that some place in England or Wales should be subjoined, by way of venue, under a *videlicet*, thus,

¹ *Hague v. French*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 173.

² *Stafford v. Forcer*, 10 Mod. 511. cited 1 Stra. 22. In an action on a note dated in 1704, defendant pleaded that the cause of action did not accrue within six years, the plaintiff replied a bill filed in 1714; and that the cause of action accrued within six years of that time, and after verdict for the plaintiff, the court arrested the judgment, because it was stated that the note was made and dated in 1704, and then the cause of action must have accrued above six years before 1714; but see *Leaper v. Tutton*, 16 East. 420.

³ In Trinity Term, 1818, K. B. the court held, that on a guarantee of the debt of another, the plaintiff might give in evidence a verbal promise to revive the original undertaking in writing, so as to defeat a plea of *actio non accrevit infra sex annos*.

1st. The statement
of the bill, &c.

“ at Venice in Italy, to wit, at London, &c.”¹ But where a promissory note, dated and made at Paris, was declared upon in an action by the payee against the maker, as made in London, it was decided to be no variance, because the contract evidenced by a promissory note is transitory, and the place where it purports to be made immaterial²; and it is laid down that *inland* bills and notes, though they may bear date at a particular place, may be alledged to have been made anywhere in England or Wales³.

The instrument itself must be stated in terms, or according to the legal effect. If it be in foreign language it may nevertheless be stated as if it were in English, without noticing the foreign language⁴. If the bill be payable at usances, the length of them should be averred thus “at two usances, that is to say, at two months after the date thereof,” and the omission will be fatal on demurrer⁵. And if by the body of the bill or note, it be made payable at a particular place, that qualification of the contract must be stated⁶.

A bill or note payable to the order of the plaintiff, may be stated in the declaration to be payable to him, and there is no occasion to insert any averment that he made no order⁷.

And a bill of exchange expressed on the face of it, to be for “value delivered in leather,” may be stated in pleading to have been for value *received* in leather⁸. And it has been considered that when a bill of exchange is in this form “pay to F. G. B. or order £315. value received,” and was subscribed by the drawer, it

¹ Bayl. 175.—Salk. 669.—Cowp. 177, 8.—6 Mod. 228.—Com. Dig. Action, N. 7.

² Per Lord Ellenborough, in *Houiet v. Morris*, 3 Campb. 304.

³ Bayl. 175.

⁴ *Attorney-General v. Valabreque*, Wightw. 9.

⁵ *Barclay v. Campbell*, Salk. 131.—*Smart v. Dean*, 3 Kcb. 645.—Bayl. 184, 5.

⁶ Ante, 321.

⁷ *Frederick v. Cotton*, 2 Show. 8.—*Fisher v. Pomfet*, Carth. 403.—Bayl. 189, 190.

⁸ *Jones v. Mars*, 2 Campb. 307, in notes.—*White v. Ledwick*, ante, 87.

may be alleged in pleading to be a bill of exchange for value received by the drawer from the payee¹, and it should seem that it is not necessary to insert in the declaration that part of the bill which relates to the consideration².

1st. The statement of the bill, &c.

It is not advisable to state more of the bill or note declared on than is necessary to enable the plaintiff to recover³, and the formal description of the direction to the drawee, should in general be omitted, at least in one count, for fear of a variance. If the bill or note were informal, it may be stated in its terms with an innuendo of its meaning, which seems the safest course⁴.

If the rules of law prevent the instrument declared on from operating according to the words of it, it may *ut res magis valeat quam pereat* be stated to have been made in such a manner as the law will give effect to it, though there may be a verbal variation between that statement and the instrument itself⁵. Therefore in the case before-mentioned of a note by which a man promised *never* to pay a sum of money, it was holden that it might be declared on as a promise *to pay*⁶; and bills payable to the *order* of fictitious persons, may be declared on as payable *to bearer*, against every party aware of the fact⁷.

It is incumbent on the plaintiff, in every declaration founded on a breach of contract, to shew the contract for the non-performance of which the action is brought, and consequently it is necessary to state in a declaration on a bill, *how the defendant became party to it*, whether by drawing, accepting, or transferring it, as that he “made,” “accepted,” “indorsed,” or “de-

2dly. How the defendant became party to the bill, &c.

¹ Grant v. Da Costa, 3 M. & S. 351. ante, 88, note 4.

² Id. *ibid.* per Lord Ellenborough.

³ Bristow v. Wright, Dougl. 667.—Dundas v. Lord Weymouth, Cowp. 665.—Price v. Fletcher, Cowp. 727.

⁴ Waugh v. Russel, 1 Marsh. 215.

⁵ Rolleston v. Mageston, 4 T. R. 166.

⁶ Ante, 54. 119.

⁷ Ante, 83, 4, 5.

2dly. How the defendant became party to the bill, &c.

delivered" it; which allegations will be sufficient although the defendant did not in fact do either of these acts himself, provided he authorized the doing of them; though, indeed, it is not unfrequent when the fact is so, to state that those acts were done by the procurement of the agent who was employed¹: and though it is usual to allege a promise, it has been decided that this is unnecessary, as the law implies a promise where there is a legal liability². In an action against the acceptor of a bill and the maker of a note, at the suit of the payee or indorsee, the defendant's promise is to be stated to have been "according to the *tenor and effect of the bill or note*;" but in an action against a drawer or indorser of a bill, or the indorser of a note, after stating the default of the party primarily liable, the liability and the promise of the defendant are stated to have been to pay *on request*, that being the legal result.

The words "his own proper hand, being thereunto subscribed," subscribed should be omitted. In an action by the indorsee against the acceptor of a bill of exchange, the declaration stated, that the payee indorsed it, *his own proper hand being thereunto subscribed*; and it appeared that the payee's name, upon the back of the bill, was written under his authority by his wife; and it was held that the defendant having, after notice of non-payment, promised to pay, was not at liberty to object that the indorsement was not in the handwriting of the payee himself³; but had it not been for such promise, the variance would have been fatal⁴. And in an action against the drawers of a bill of exchange, the declaration stated, that the defendants

¹ Collis v. Emmett, 1 Hen. Bla. 313.—Brucker v. Fromont, 6 T. R. 659.—Heys v. Heseltine, 2 Campb. 604.

² Starkie v. Cheesman, Carth. 510.—Salk. 128. S. C.—Anonymous, Hardw. 486.—See vide Bac. Ab. tit. Assumpsit, F. and Morris v. Norfolk, 1 Taunt. 217.

³ Helmsley v. Loader, 2 Campb. 450.—Payl. P. & A. App. no. 2.—Bayl. 182, 3.

⁴ Levy v. Wilson, 5 Esp. 180.—Payl. P. & A. 275, 6.—Bayl. 185.

made the bill, "their *own proper hands* being thereto subscribed;" and in fact their firm of A. and Co. was subscribed to the bill, and Lord Ellenborough said, "Had it been 'their own proper *hand*,' I should have clearly held it sufficient. As it stands, I entertain some doubt; but I will not nonsuit ¹."

²dly. How the defendant became party to the bill, &c.

It is advisable to state the true date of the acceptance of a bill payable after sight, and in any other case where the acceptance is dated of a day different to the date of the bill, it should be described accordingly ²; but it seems that a variance is not material ³. And though it has been considered that if the plaintiff allege in terms, that the acceptance was made before the time limited by the bill for its payment, the plaintiff will be precluded from giving in evidence an acceptance afterwards ⁴, this doctrine has been disputed by high authority ⁵. And where the plaintiff, as indorsee of a bill, against the defendant, as acceptor, stated in his declaration, that the defendant became liable to pay, and promised to pay according to the tenor and effect of the bill and his acceptance, it was held, that he might, under the plea, that the causes of action did not accrue within six years, give in evidence a promise long after the bill was due ⁶.

On the before-mentioned rule that the plaintiff should not state more of the bill than is essential to his title, it is not necessary or advisable in an action against the drawer or indorser of a bill, to state that the drawee accepted it, but if it be stated, it must, in an action against the drawer be proved, unless it be shewn that he indorsed the bill after it was accepted, or that after it was due he promised to pay ⁷.

¹ Jones & al. v. Mars & al. 2 Campb. 305.

² Bayl. 181.

³ Forman v. Jacob, 1 Stark. 46; and see Young v. Wright, 1 Campb. 139.—Lord Raym. 364.—12 Mod. 212.

⁴ Jackson v. Piggott, Lord Raym. 364.—12 Mod. 212.

⁵ Bayl. 181.

⁶ Leaper v. Tutton, 16 East. 420.

⁷ Jones v. Morgan, 2 Campb. 474.—Bayl. 181.

2dly. How the defendant became party to the bill, &c.

If the engagement of either of the parties were conditional, it must be described accordingly, and therefore a conditional acceptance must be so stated, and if declared upon as an absolute engagement, the variance will be fatal, although the condition has been performed¹. We have already considered when it is necessary to describe the acceptance as payable at a particular place and when that statement would be improper².

3dly. How the plaintiff became a party and entitled thereto.

Thirdly, A plaintiff, who sues upon a bill, check, or note, must shew in his declaration his right to sue thereon, in the same manner as every other plaintiff must shew a sufficient title, to enable him to maintain the action which he brings³. Thus, in an action by the indorsee or bearer of a bill, it is necessary to shew that it authorized a transfer, and he must also state that the transfer was made⁴. In general, whatever forms a constituent part of the plaintiff's title, must be set out correctly⁵. But this rule is liable to similar exceptions to that which makes it necessary to set out the instrument as made; and he may set it out, as in case of a bill payable to the order of a fictitious person, according to the effect given to it by law⁶. It has been decided, that the payee of a bill or note payable to his own order, may state it to have made payable to himself⁷; and a note payable to a married woman, and indorsed by her husband, may be stated to have been payable to the husband⁸. An indorsee may, it is said, declare against his immediate indorser, as on a bill of exchange made by the defendant, di-

¹ Langston v. Corney, 4 Campb. 176.—Swan v. Cox, 1 Marsh. 176. ante, 236.

² Ante, 321 to 332.

³ Bishop v. Hayward, 4 T. R. 471.

⁴ Bayl. 180.

⁵ Per Lord Kenyon, in Gwinnet v. Phillip, 3 T. R. 645.—Gibson v. Minet, 1 Hen. Bla. 605, 6.

⁶ Ante, 88, 4.

⁷ Frederick v. Cotton, 2 Show. 8.—Smith v. M'Clure, 5 East. 476. 2 Smith's Rep. 43. S. C.

⁸ Barlow v. Bishop, 1 East. 432.—3 Esp. Rep. 266. S. C.—Ankerstein v. Clarke, 4 T. R. 616.

rected to the acceptor, and payable to the plaintiff, the act of indorsing being similar in its operation to that of making a bill, but this is not the practice ¹. 3dly. How the plaintiff became a party, &c.

In general, however, the plaintiff's title should be stated according to the facts, and if he claim as a remote indorsee, every indorsement is usually set forth: but where the first indorsement is in blank, and the plaintiff is apprehensive he will not be able to prove all the subsequent indorsements, it is proper to add a count stating the plaintiff to be immediate indorsee of some prior indorser. In such case, however, it is said, that in order to render the evidence correspondent to the declaration, all the subsequent names must be struck out of the bill before or at the time of the trial ²; which may be done, notwithstanding there has been a subsequent indorsement in full ³. In this case, in order to avoid unnecessary expence, the indorsement may be described concisely thus: "And the said A. then and there indorsed and delivered the said bill of exchange to the said B., and the said B. then and there indorsed and delivered the said bill of exchange to the said C. &c." In an action against a remote indorser, though there be several indorsements between that of the payee and the defendant, the plaintiff may declare, as on an immediate indorsement by the payee to the defendant, and by him to the plaintiff, and need not notice the intermediate indorsements ⁴.

It has been recently decided, that in an action against the indorser of a bill of exchange, in which the declaration stated several prior indorsements, it is not necessary to prove any indorsements on the bill prior to the defendants, though it is otherwise in an action against the acceptor; consequently, where a remote

¹ *Brown v. Harraden*, 4 T. R. 149.

² *Anonymous*, 12 Mod. 345.—*Peacock v. Rhodes*, Dougl. 633.—*Anonymous*, Holt, 296.—*Kyd*. 206.

³ *Ante*, 175.—*Bayl*. 184.

⁴ *Chaters v. Bell*, 4 Esp. Rep. 211.—*Bayl*. 183.

3dly. How the plaintiff became a party, &c.

indorser is sued, there will be no risk in stating all the prior indorsements in the declaration¹. And in another case it was held, that in an action by the indorsee against the acceptor, where several indorsements had taken place, and which were laid in the declaration, and are consequently necessary to be proved in general, yet if the defendant applies for time to the holder and offers terms, it is an admission of the holder's title, and a waiver of proof of all the indorsements except the first². On an indorsement, for less than the full sums mentioned in the bill or note, the plaintiff must describe the same accordingly, and shew that the residue was paid³. In describing the indorsement, it is not advisable to allege that the indorser's hand-writing was thereunto subscribed, and if that allegation be inserted and the bill appear to have been indorsed by an agent, the variance will be fatal⁴.

If a note payable to bearer be declared on as indorsed, the indorsement must be proved⁵; but when the declaration states that the indorsement was *after* the making of the bill, and it appeared in evidence to have been before⁶, or that it was *before* the bill was due, and it appears in evidence to have been made *afterwards* this is not a material variance⁷. It is not necessary to allege, as part of the plaintiff's title, that the bill, &c. was *delivered* to him, as the allegation, that the bill was payable to the payee, or "that an indorsement was *made*," includes it⁸; nor is it necessary to aver notice of an indorsement⁹.

¹ Critchlow v. Parry, 2 Campb. 182.

² Bosanquet v. Anderson, 6 Esp. Rep. 43.

³ Hawkins v. Gardner, 12 Mod. 213.—Bayl. 183, n. a.

⁴ Levy v. Wilson, 5 Esp. Rep. 180. ante, 458.

⁵ Waynam v. Bend, Campb. Ni. Pri. 175; and see Manning's Index, 75.

⁶ Smith v. Mingay, 1 M. & S. 92.

⁷ Young v. Wright, 1 Campb. 139.

⁸ Churchill v. Gardner, 7 T. R. 596.—Smith v. M'Clure, 5 East. 477. ante, 122.—Bayl. 180.

⁹ Reynolds v. Davies, 1 Bos. & Pul. 624.—Bayl. 184.

It is also necessary to shew the defendant's *breach of contract*. If a bill be accepted payable when, or if a certain event shall take place, it must be shown that such event has occurred¹. And if the bill be payable at, or after usances, their duration must be averred². If a note be payable on or after demand, it is advisable at least in one count in an action against the maker to allege a demand³. In general, in an action against the acceptor of a bill or maker of note, who is primarily liable, it is not necessary to aver or prove any presentment for payment, the action itself being deemed a sufficient demand, and the common breach at the end of the money counts sufficing⁴; and we have seen, that unless in the body of the bill or note, it be made payable at a particular place, no averment of a presentment there is necessary, although the drawee accept the bill payable at a banker's or the maker, by the memorandum at the foot of the note, specify that it shall be there payable, the stipulations being considered as no part of the contract of the parties necessary to be observed by the holder⁵. As, however, there has been some difference in opinion upon this point, it seems still advisable in one count to state the special acceptance or memorandum at the foot of the note and to aver a presentment accordingly, and in another count to describe the bill as accepted generally, and to omit the averment of presentment⁶. In all cases where by the terms of the original contract, as when in the *body* of the bill or note, it is made payable at a particular place, a presentment there and refusal, or some discharge dispensing with the presentment, must be averred in an action

4thly. The necessary averments, and defendant's breach of contract.

¹ Ante, 236.

² Bayl. 184, 5.

³ See post, as to statute of limitation; but see Cro. Eliz. 548.—Rumball v. Ball, 10 Mod. 38.—Bayl. 187.

⁴ Frampton v. Coulson, 1 Wils. 33.

⁵ Ante, 321 to 332.—Bayl. 185.

⁶ Ante, 331.—Bayl. 185.

4thly. The necessary averments, and defendant's breach of contract.

against the acceptor of the one and the maker of the other, and an allegation that the makers of a note, payable in the body of it at a particular house, became insolvent, and ceased, and wholly declined and refused then and thenceforth to pay at the place specified, any of their notes, does not shew a sufficient discharge or excuse for the want of a presentment of the particular note declared on¹.

It is sufficient, however, in these cases, if the declaration allege the presentment to have been made to the persons at whose house the bill was made payable, "according to the tenor and effect of the bill, and the acceptance thereof."² But if a bill be stated to have been accepted, payable by certain persons, at a particular place, it has been holden in an action against the drawer, that an averment of a presentment to those persons generally, without saying at what place is sufficient³. But it suffices, in an action against an acceptor to aver, a presentment at the particular place, without shewing that payment was refused there, it being sufficient to allege the non-payment at the conclusion of the declaration⁴. Nor is it necessary to aver, that the acceptor of the bill, or maker of the note, had notice of non-payment at the particular place⁵.

When the declaration is against the *drawer* or *indorser* of a bill, or the indorser of a note, as their contract is only conditional to pay, if the acceptor of the one or maker of the other do not, it is necessary to aver a presentment for payment to the drawee of the bill, or maker of the note, on the day it become due⁶, and that he refused to pay⁷, or could not be

¹ Bowes v. Howe, 5 Taunt. 30.—Ante, 322.

² Huffan v. Ellis, 3 Taunt. 415.—Ante, 327. n. 1.—Bayl. 187.

³ Ambrose v. Hopwood, 2 Taunt. 61.—Bayl. 186.

⁴ Butterworth v. Lord Despencer, 3 M. & S. 150, and Benson v. White, 4 Dow's Rep. 334. ante, 324.

⁵ Id. ibid.—Pearse v. Pemberthy, 3 Campb. 261. ante, 323, 4.

⁶ Mercer v. Southwell, 2 Show. 180.—Bayl. 185, 6.

⁷ Rushton v. Aspinall, Dougl. 679.—Lundie v. Robertson, 7 East. 231.—Bayl. 185, 6.

found upon diligent search; and such averment should correspond with the facts¹. If, however, the drawee or maker cannot be found, it is sufficient to aver generally that he was not found, without stating that any inquiry was made after him, though it is now more usual to aver that diligent search was made, and which must, as we have seen, be proved. When he has merely removed, and not absconded², and when it appears that the bill was payable at a banker's, or particular place, a presentment there must be alleged³.

4thly. The necessary averments, and defendant's breach of contract.

In an action against the drawer or indorser of a bill, or the indorser of a note, it is also a most material averment, that the defendant had notice of the dishonour of the bill, or some excuse must be alleged for the neglect to give such notice, and an error in this respect will be fatal even after verdict⁴. In the case of a foreign bill, a protest also should be stated⁵; and the allegation that the plaintiff protested, or caused to be protested, would be improper⁶; and where the plaintiff proceeds for interest, &c. against the drawer or indorser of a bill, a protest must also be stated in the case of an inland bill⁷. But the neglect to state the protest of a foreign bill can only be taken advantage of by special demurrer⁸.

If there are any circumstances in the case dispensing with presentment or protest, or notice of the dishonour, as if the drawer countermanded the payment, or had no effects in the hands of the drawee, it is advisable to insert a count stating those circumstances⁹. In an action against a drawer or indorser of a bill,

¹ Leeson v. Pigott, Bayl. 187. acc. but see Boulager v. Talleyrand, 2 Esp. Rep. 550.

² Starkie v. Cheesman, Carth. 509.—Bayl. 187.—Ante, 334. 213.

³ Parker v. Gordon, 7 East. 385.—Ante, 331, 2.

⁴ Rushton v. Aspinall, Dougl. 679.—Lundie v. Robertson, 7 East. 231.—Bayl. 185, 6.

⁵ Gale v. Walch, 5 T. R. 239.—Bayl. 188.

⁶ Witherley v. Sarsfield, 1 Show. 127.—Bayl. 189.

⁷ Boulager v. Talleyrand, 2 Esp. Rep. 550.—Ante, 282, 3, 398.

⁸ Solomons v. Staveley, cited Dougl. 684. n.—Bayl. 189. 144.

⁹ See form in Legg v. Thorp, 12 East. 171.—Bayl. 189. and see Precedents, post, and 3 Chitty on Plead. 44, 45.

4thly. The necessary averments, and defendant's breach of contract.

and the indorser of a note, their liabilities and promises are stated to have been to pay *on request*, and not according to *the tenor and effect* of the bill¹.

When there are several different bills or notes, a count on each may, with propriety, and indeed must be inserted in the declaration, however prolix it may thereby be rendered². The other points relative to the declarations on bills, notes, and cheques, will be found in the notes to the precedents.

Sect. 2. Of the counts on the consideration, and of the common counts.

With respect to the *common counts*, although it is not usual, when there is a bill or note, to rely on them alone in pleading, yet they will in many cases supply the omission or defect of the count on the instrument itself; and the plaintiff will be at liberty to go into evidence of the consideration for which he received it, and may recover on the common counts, if adapted to such consideration, in case he cannot substantiate, in evidence, the facts necessary to support the count on the instrument, or such count should be defective³; taking care that the particulars of his demand state the consideration of the bill, &c.⁴; and perhaps to notice such demand in the counsel's opening of the case on the trial⁵. Thus, where the plaintiff declared on a promissory note, and on a *quantum meruit* for work and labour, which was the consideration for which it was given, but the note not being duly stamped, and a verdict having been taken generally for the plaintiff, the defendant moved to enter a nonsuit—the court said, that although the note, not being stamped, could

¹ Bayl. 190.

² Lane v. Smith, 3 Smith's Rep. 113.

³ See the cases, Selw. N. P. 4th edit. 353, 4.—Bayl. 163, &c.—Manning's Ind. 75, 6.—Thompson v. Morgan, 3 Campb. 101, 2.—Tyte v. Jones, 1 East. 58. n. a.—Alves v. Hodgson, 7 T. R. 241.—Tatlock v. Harris, 3 T. R. 174.—Claxton v. Swift, 2 Show. 501.—Kyd. 58. 197.—Peake's L. of Ev. 219.—Bul. Ni. Pri. 139.—Payne v. Bacomb, Dougl. 651.—Brown v. Watts, 1 Taunt. 353.

⁴ Wade v. Beasley, 4 Esp. Rep. 7.—Selw. N. P. 4th ed. 354. n. 62.

⁵ Paterson v. Zachariah, 1 Stark. 72.

not be given in evidence, yet the plaintiff ought to have an opportunity of recovering on the other count, and accordingly a new trial was granted¹; and in *Wilson v. Kennedy*², where the same point was determined, Lord Kenyon said, that a promissory note is not like a bond, which merges the demand³. It has also been decided, that it is not necessary to declare on a promissory note, but that in an action for money lent, the same may be given in evidence⁴; for the Stat. 3 & 4 Ann. c. 9. which enables the plaintiff to declare upon the note, is only a concurrent remedy; and where a bill was drawn on an agent and made payable out of a particular fund, and consequently invalid, and the agent said he would pay it when he got money of the principal, it was held, that this was binding on him, and that if he got the money at any subsequent time, he was bound to pay the amount, and that it was recoverable as money had and received⁵. Where, however, the party is discharged by alteration of the bill, &c., or by the laches of the holder, the plaintiff will not be allowed to go into evidence on the common counts⁶; and where a promissory note has been given for money due from the defendant to the plaintiff, who declares thereon together with the money counts, he must prove the note to have been lost or destroyed before he can have recourse to the money counts, if it appear that the money so claimed was that for which the note was given⁷.

Sect. 2. Of the counts on the consideration, and of the common counts.

The above rule does not in general apply when there is *no privity* between the plaintiff and defendant, as between the indorsee and the acceptor of a bill, and

¹ *Alves v. Hodgson*, 7 T. R. 241.—*Tyte v. Jones*, 1 East. 58. n. a. *Wade v. Beasley*, 4 Esp. Rep. 7.

² *Wilson v. Kennedy*, 1 Esp. Rep. 245.—*Tyte v. Jones*, 1 East. 58. n. a.—*Selw. N. P.* 4th ed. 354.

³ See also ante, 123.

⁴ *Bul. N. P.* 137, 8.—*Story v. Atkins*, 2 Stra. 719.—*Ex parte Mills*, 2 Ves. jun. 303.

⁵ *Stevens v. Hill*, 5 Esp. Rep. 247.

⁶ *Long v. Moore*, 3 Esp. Rep. 155.

⁷ *Dangerfield v. Wilby*, 4 Esp. Rep. 159.—Ante, 125, 6.

Sect. 2. Of the counts on the consideration, and of the common counts.

the indorsee and the maker of a note¹, between whom, if the plaintiff cannot succeed on the count on the bill, and there be no express promise to pay the amount, the common counts are in general of no avail².

The instrument *itself* will, it is said, when duly stamped, in certain cases, be evidence in support of the counts for money lent, paid, had, and received, and that founded on an actual or supposed account stated; and those counts, when applicable, should therefore always be inserted in the declaration; but in a late case it was held, that a promissory note is only evidence under the money counts as between the *original* parties to it³; a decision which appears to accord with the rule of law as to the assignment of choses in action, and may probably affect the authority of some of the decisions presently noticed⁴.

The count for *money lent*, it is said, is proper in an action at the suit of the payee of a bill against the drawer, and in an action at the suit of the payee of a note against the maker, they being evidence of money lent by the payee to the drawer of the one, and maker of the other⁵. It is also proper in an action at the suit of an indorsee against his immediate indorser⁶. So a note in this form: "3d December, 1751, then received of Mr. Harris, the sum of nineteen pounds, on behalf of my grandson, which I promise to be accountable for on demand, witness my hand, S. Huntbach,"—the grandson being an infant, was

¹Johnson v. Collings, 1 East. 98.—Barlow v. Bishop, id. 434, 5.—Whitwell v. Bennett, 3 Bos. & Pul. 559.—Houle v. Baxter, 3 East. 177.

²Waynam v. Bend, 1 Campb. 175.

³Id. ibid.

⁴See Lord Kenyon's observation in Johnson v. Collings, 1 East. 103, 4, and in Barlow v. Bishop, id. 434, 5.

⁵Per Lord Ellenborough in Marshall v. Poole, 13 East. 100.—Ex parte Mills, 2 Ves. jun. 295.—Story v. Atkins, 2 Stra. 725.—Clerke v. Martin, Ld. Raym. 758.—Carter v. Palmer, 12 Mod. 380.—Grant v. Vaughan, 3 Burr. 1516. 1525.—Smith v. Kendall, 6 T. R. 124.—Carr v. Shaw, ante, 419.—Bayl. 18. n. 1. 163.—See vide Cary v. Gerrish, 4 Esp. Rep. 9.

⁶Kessbower v. Tims, K. B. 22 Geo. 3. Bayl. 164. n. b.

holden to be evidence in support of the count for money lent¹.

Sect. 2. Of the counts on the consideration, and of the common counts.

It has been said, that a bill or note is *prima facie* evidence of *money paid* by the holder to the use of the drawer of the one, and maker of the other²; and that a bill, when accepted, is evidence of money paid by the holder to the use of the acceptor³; and if an indorser has taken up a bill, he may, having failed in his first count against the acceptor on account of a variance, recover under the count for money paid⁴. But in a late case *Eyre*, Chief Justice, said, that the presumption of evidence which a bill of exchange affords, has no application to the assumpsit for money paid by the payee or holder of it, to the use of the acceptor; and that it must be a very special case which will support such an assumpsit⁵. In the case of *Cowley v. Dunlop*⁶, Lawrence, J. expressed an opinion that the drawer of a bill, who is obliged to take it up after having negotiated it, is confined to his action on the bill to recover against the acceptor. If the drawee, without having effects of the drawer in his hands, accept and pay the bill without having it protested, he may recover the amount in an action for money paid, laid out, and expended, to the use of the drawer⁷; though it is usual to declare on the express or implied promise to provide for the bill at maturity, or to indemnify⁸.

It has been holden, that a bill, as well as a note⁹, is *prima facie* evidence of *money had and received* by

¹ *Harris v. Huntbach*, 1 Burr. 373.

² Bayl. 164.

³ Id. 165.

⁴ *Le Sage v. Johnson*, For. Rep. 23.—Bayl. 164. S. C.

⁵ *Gibson v. Minet*, 1 Hen. Bla. 602.—and see *Howle v. Baxter*, 3 East. 177.

⁶ *Cowley v. Dunlop*, 7 T. R. 572.—*Buckler v. Buttevant*, 3 East. 72.—*Simmonds v. Parminter*, 1 Wils. 186.

⁷ *Smith v. Nissen*, 1 T. R. 269.—*Cowley v. Dunlop*, 7 T. R. 576.—*Simmonds v. Parminter*, 1 Wils. 188.

⁸ *Simmonds v. Parminter*, 1 Wils. 188.

⁹ Vin. Ab. tit. Evidence, A. b. 36.—*Ford v. Hopkins*, 1 Salk. 283.

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the drawer or maker to the use of the holder¹; and an acceptance is evidence of money had and received by the acceptor to the use of the drawer². But it is doubtful whether the indorsee or holder can use the bill against the acceptor as evidence under this count³. And it seems now to be settled, that the plaintiff can in no case recover under this count, unless money has actually been received by the party sued, and for the use of the plaintiff⁴. If the indorsee of a bill of exchange, who has received a navy bill as a security to him till the bill of exchange is accepted, deposit such navy bill with the drawee, and the drawee receive the money upon it, he is answerable for the amount in an action for money had and received to the use of the indorsee, though he may have done nothing that amounts to an acceptance of the bill of exchange⁵. In an action for money had and received by the holder of a bill against a person who has received a sum of money from the acceptor to satisfy it, any defence may be set up which could have been available, if the action had been brought against acceptor himself⁶.

According to the case of *Israel v. Douglas*⁷, an acceptance is evidence of an *account stated* by the acceptor with the holder of the bill.

It is here proper to observe, that whenever the bill or note is not declared upon, it is not adduced in evi-

¹ Bayl. 163. cites *Grant v. Vaughan*, 3 Burr. 1516.—Sed vide *Waynam v. Bend*, 1 Campb. 175.

² *Thompson v. Morgan*, 3 Campb. 101.—Bayl. 163.

³ *Johnson v. Collings*, 1 East. 104.—*Dimsdale v. Lanchester*, 1 Esp. Rep. 201.—Bayl. 96.—*Brown v. London*, Freem. 14.—1 Ventr. 153. S. C.—*Israel v. Douglas*, 1 Hen. Bla. 239.—*Eaglechilde's case*, Holt. 67.—Vide *Waynam v. Bend*, Campb. 175. But in Bayl. on Bills, 164, it is laid down that the acceptance is evidence of money had and received by the acceptor to the use of the holder, and of money paid by the holder to the use of the acceptor, and an indorsement of money lent by the indorsee to the indorser.

⁴ *Barlow v. Bishop*, 1 East. 434, 5.—*Waynam v. Bend*, 1 Campb. 175.

⁵ *Pierson v. Dunlop*, Cowp. 571.; and see 5 Esp. Rep. 247.—14 East. 590. ante, 252, 3.

⁶ *Redshaw v. Jackson*, 1 Campb. 372.

⁷ *Israel v. Douglas*, 1 Hen. Bla. 239.—Sed vide *Whitwell v. Bennett*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 559.—*Johnson v. Collings*, 1 East. 98.

dence as an instrument carrying with it the privileges it is otherwise entitled to in respect of its bearing internal evidence of a consideration; but it is merely used as a piece of paper or writing, to found an inference only, in support of the money counts, which inference may be rebutted and destroyed by contradictory evidence on the part of the defendant; in which case the jury must draw, from the whole of the evidence, the conclusion of fact, that so much money was lent, paid, or had and received, or that an account was stated'.

Sect. 2. Of the counts on the consideration, and of the common counts.

¹ Story v. Atkins, 2 Stra. 725.—Gibson v. Minet, 1 Hep. Bla. 602.

CHAPTER III.

OF PAYMENT OF DEBT AND COSTS—JUDGMENT BY
DEFAULT—AND THE PLEAS AND DEFENCE IN AN
ACTION OF ASSUMPSIT ON A BILL, &c.

WHEN the plaintiff has declared, the defendant, if he have any defence, pleads; if he have no defence, he settles the action by paying the debt and costs; or he lets judgment go by default; or obtains time by dilatory pleading. If the defendant wish to see a copy of the bill or note, the practice is stated to be, for a judge on summons, without an affidavit, to make an order for the delivery of a copy to the defendant or his attorney, and that all proceedings be in the mean time stayed¹. But the court or a judge will not grant leave to inspect a bill, in order to ascertain whether it was duly stamped, or has been altered, as those are considered as unjust defences².

Sect. 1. Of staying proceedings on payment of the debt and costs.

If the defendant be advised to settle the action in the first instance, without incurring further expense, he may move the court, in which the action is brought, for a rule, calling on the plaintiff to shew cause why, on payment of the debt and costs, all further proceedings should not be stayed: or he may apply to a judge for a summons to the same effect. But where an indorsement was made upon a note by the payee, that if the interest was paid on stipulated days, during his life, the note should be given up; default having been made in payment of the interest, the Court of Common Pleas refused to stay the proceedings on payment of it, and costs³.

¹ Tidd. 6th edit. 618.

² And see *Odams v. Duke of Grafton*, Bunb. 243.

³ *Steel v. Bradfield*, 4 Taunt. 227.—2 Bla. Rep. 958.

If the holder of a bill bring separate actions against the acceptor, the drawer, and indorsers, at the same time, the court will stay the proceedings in the action against the drawer, or any one of the indorsers, upon payment of the amount of the bill, and the costs of that particular action; but the action against the acceptor will only be stayed on the terms of his paying the costs in all the actions, he being the original defaulter¹; and therefore, where several actions have been brought, it may be the least expensive course for the acceptor to suffer judgment by default, in which case he can only be charged with the costs of the particular action against himself.

Sect. 1. Of staying, &c.

When the defendant has no defence, either on the merits or on the pleadings, and is not able to pay the debt and costs in the first instance, he usually obtains time by pleading, or suffers judgment to go by default, whereupon the plaintiff must, in an action of assumpsit, before he will be entitled to final judgment and execution, ascertain the amount of the debt, which is done either by referring it to the master to compute the principal, interest, and costs, or by suing out a writ of enquiry. By suffering judgment by default, the defendant is precluded from making any objection to the validity of the instrument²; and from availing himself of its loss as a ground of defence³.

Sect. 2. Of judgment by default, &c.

Formerly, a writ of enquiry was the only legal mode of ascertaining what was due in the case of a judgment by default in an action on a bill or note; but it has long been the practice of the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas, for the plaintiff, instead of executing a writ of enquiry, to apply to the court in term time, or to a judge in vacation, on an affidavit

¹ Smith v. Woodcock, 4 T. R. 691. — Windham v. Wither, Stra. 515. Golding v. Grace, 2 Bla. Rep. 749. — Tidd. 6th edit. 562.

² Shepherd v. Charter, 4 T. R. 275.

³ Brown v. Alessiter, 3 M. & S. 281. — Ante, 199.

Sect. 2. Of judgment by default, &c.

of the nature of the action, for a rule or summons to shew cause, why it should not be referred to the master or prothonotaries, in the Common Pleas, to see what is due for principal and interest, and why final judgment should not be signed for that sum, without executing a writ of inquiry, upon which the court or judge will make the rule absolute, on an affidavit of service, unless good cause be shewn to the contrary¹. And though formerly the Court of Exchequer did not adopt this practice², yet now it is otherwise.

In the King's Bench, where interlocutory judgment was signed, and the plaintiff died on a subsequent day in the term, the court granted a rule to compute principal and interest on the bill on which the action was brought³; and in another case, they referred it to the master, to see what was due for principal and interest upon a bill of exchange, upon producing a copy of the bill verified by affidavit of the plaintiff's attorney, the original having been stolen out of his pocket, and no tidings of it obtained⁴.

This practice, however, is confined to cases where the declaration states the bill or note, and does not apply to cases where the instrument is not specially declared upon⁵. And it is still necessary to sue out a writ of inquiry, when the bill is payable in foreign money, the value of which, it is said, can only be properly ascertained by a jury⁶. And in a recent case, the court would not direct the master to allow

¹ *Shepherd v. Charter*, 4 T. R. 275.—*Rashleigh v. Salmon*, 1 Hen. Bla. 252.—*Andrews v. Blake*, id. 529.—*Longman v. Fenn*, id. 541. In *Chilton v. Harborn*, 1 Anstr. Rep. 249. it is said, that the first case where the court granted this rule, was that of *Rashleigh v. Salmon*, 29 Geo. 3. 1 Hen. Bla. 252.—*Thellusson v. Fletcher*, Doug. 315, 6.

² *Chilton v. Harborn*, 1 Anstr. 249.

³ *Berger v. Green*, 1 M. & S. 229.

⁴ *Brown v. Messiter*, 3 M. & S. 281. Ante, 199.

⁵ *Osborne v. Node*, 8 T. R. 648.

⁶ *Messing v. Lord Massarene*, 4 T. R. 493.—*Maunsel v. Lord Massarene*, 5 T. R. 87.—*Nelson v. Sheridan*, 8 T. R. 395. Cro. Eliz. 536. Cro. Jac. 617. Tidd. 6th edit. 598.

re-exchange, in an action upon a bill drawn in Scotland upon and accepted by the defendant in England¹; and the court refused a reference to the master, in an action of debt on a judgment recovered on a bill of exchange². Where, however, there was a demurrer to one count on a bill of exchange and judgment for the plaintiff, and a plea to other counts on which issue was joined, the Court of King's Bench referred it to the master, to see what was due to the plaintiff on the former³. But in such case a *nolle prosequi* must be entered as to the other counts, which may be done any time before final judgment⁴.

The plaintiff may, in the King's Bench, obtain a rule for referring a bill of exchange to the master, on the day on which interlocutory judgment was signed for want of a plea⁵; but where it is signed upon demurrer, as a day is given to the parties upon the record, it might be thought incougruous to deprive either of them of the whole of the day, after he is once possessed of it; and it has therefore been the practice not to move for such rule until the following day⁶. In the King's Bench, the rule nisi and rule absolute, must both be served; but there need not be any notice of taxing; if the defendant wish it, he must at his peril take care to get a rule to be present⁷. In the Common Pleas, notice must be given to the defendant of the prothonotary's appointment to compute principal and interest on the bill, in order that the defendant may have an opportunity of bringing forward any facts which may have occurred to reduce the sum which the plaintiff seeks to recover⁸.

¹ *Napier v. Shneider*, 12 East. 420.—*Goldsmith v. Taite*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 55.

² *Nelson v. Sheridan*, 8 T. R. 395.

³ *Dusserry v. Johnson*, 7 T. R. 473.

⁴ *Heald v. Johnson*, 2 Smith's Rep. 46, 7. 1 Strange, 532. Tidd, 6th edit. 599.

⁵ *Pocock v. Carpenter*, 3 M. & S. 109.

⁶ *Id.* *ibid.* 3 Smith's Rep. 179. Tidd. 6th edit. 597.

⁷ *Sellin v. Dufton*, Hil. 1813.—*Farmer v. Wood*, East. 1816.—MS. of Mr. Le Blanc.

⁸ *Branning v. Patterson*, 4 Taunt. 487. Tidd. 6th edit. 597.

Sect. 2. Form and
qualities of pro-
missory notes, &c.

Though the rule Nisi calls upon the defendant to shew cause why the matter should not be referred to the master, yet it has been held in the Common Pleas, that no irregularity previous to the judgment can be shewn as cause against the reference¹. And the same practice prevails in the King's Bench; and in a late case, where the defendant's counsel opposed a rule nisi, for referring to the master, on an affidavit, showing that the judgment was irregular, it having been signed without a plea having been demanded, the court determined that this was no ground for opposing the motion, and that a cross motion to set aside the judgment must be made, which was accordingly done, and the rule for referring to the master was enlarged, till the motion of the defendant had been discussed and determined².

When the plaintiff proceeds to ascertain the damages by executing a writ of inquiry, he need not adduce any evidence, but should produce the bill, which it will not be necessary to prove³; for where the action is founded on the instrument itself, letting judgment

¹ Pell v. Brown, 1 Bos. & Pul. 369.

² Marshall v. Van Omeran, K. B. Trin. 1818.

³ Greene v. Hearne, 3 T. R. 301.—Bul. Ni. Pri. 278.—Thellusson v. Fletcher, Dougl. 316. n. 2.—Golding v. Grace, 2 Bla. Rep. 749.

Bevis and Lindsell, Stra. 1149. On executing a writ of inquiry in an action on a note, the plaintiff did not produce the subscribing witness, but offered other evidence that it was the defendant's hand, and the court held *that* sufficient. For the note being set out in the declaration is admitted, and the only use of producing it is, to see whether any payment is indorsed upon it.

Greene v. Hearne, 3 T. R. 301. Upon a rule nisi to set aside an inquisition against the acceptor of a bill of exchange, it was urged that the bill, though *produced* before the jury, was not *proved*, but the court held, that by suffering judgment, the defendant admitted the acceptance of the bill, and was liable to its amount; and Buller, J. said the only reason of producing the bill is to see whether any part of it is paid.

Mills v. Lyne, B. R. Hill. 26 G. 3. Bayl. 227. note g. On a writ of inquiry in an action upon a note, the sheriff directed the jury to give nominal damages only, because the plaintiff could not prove the note. Lawrence insisted that the plaintiff was bound to produce the note (because a receipt of part might have been indorsed thereon), and to prove the defendant's signature, but per Buller, J. "If you had paid part you might have pleaded it, but you have let judgment go for the whole," and the court set aside the inquisition.

go by default is an admission of the cause of action, and of the defendant's liability to the amount of the bill¹; and the only reason why the production of the bill is required, is, that it may be seen whether or not any part of it has been paid²: for the same reason, the defendant will not be suffered to give in evidence any matter in defeasance of the action³.

Sect. 2. Of judgment by default, &c.

The defences of which the defendant may avail himself in this action, are founded either on a mis-statement in the declaration of the cause of action, or on some defect in the right of action itself. Those of the first description are taken advantage of by a general or special demurrer; by a general demurrer when the mis-statement is substantially bad, and by a special demurrer when it is only formally so. Defences arising from a defect in the right of action itself, are brought forward either in the shape of a special plea, or are given in evidence under the general issue of non-assumpsit. They consist either of a denial that the plaintiff ever had cause of action, or admitting that he once had, of an assertion, that it is either suspended or extinguished. And a plea to an extent in aid, stating that the defendant had accepted a bill drawn upon him by the original debtor, and which did not become due till the day after the inquisition was taken, is good, although the defendant had refused payment, and the original debtor to the crown had been obliged to take it up⁴.

Sect. 3. Of the pleas and defence.

Those of the *first* description are also divisible into two heads, namely, those defences which deny that the instrument declared on was made, indorsed, or accepted, or that the defendant was party to it; and those which admit such facts, but allege that the contract, supposed to have been raised by them, was void or voidable, on account of the incapacity of the de-

¹ Anonymous, 3 Wils. 155.—Shepherd v. Charter, 4 T. R. 275.

² Per Buller, J. in Greene v. Hearne, 3 T. R. 301.

³ East India Company v. Glover, 1 Stra. 612.—Shepherd v. Charter, 4 T. R. 275.

⁴ The King v. Dawson, 1 Wightw. 32. ante, 123.

Sect. 3. Of the
pleas and de-
fence.

fendant to contract, as in the case of infancy or coverture, or on account of the *want of consideration*; or the illegality of it, or on the ground of an improper presentment for acceptance, or payment, or neglect to give notice of the dishonour of the bill, or some laches of the holder, or the person from whom he attempts to derive an interest in the instrument; or, admitting there once existed a valid contract, insist that it was performed by payment or otherwise; or if unperformed, that there was some legal excuse for the non-performance of it, as a release or parol discharge before breach¹. But we have seen that the defendant cannot give in evidence, as a defence, a parol agreement to renew².

Defences of the *second* description, namely, those which admit that the plaintiff once had cause of action, but insist that it no longer exists, are either such as allege that the plaintiff is under an existing disability to sue, by his being an outlaw, alien enemy, bankrupt, &c.; or that the defendant is under a disability to be sued, either by his being an insolvent debtor, bankrupt, &c.; or that the action is discharged by an accord and satisfaction³, arbitrament, release, (which we have seen, may, in the case of bills, be by parol,) former recovery for the same cause, tender, set-off, or the statute of limitations⁴.

The statute of limitations begins to operate only from the time when the bill, &c. is due, and not in general from 'the date'; and therefore the plea in an action against an acceptor of a bill, or maker of a note, when payable after date, should be *actio non accrevit*, and not *non-assumpsit infra sex annos*⁵.

¹ Ante, 245, 6, 7.

² Hoare v. Graham, 3 Campb. 57, ante, 61, 2.

³ What is not a satisfaction see Noxsis v. Aylett, 2 Campb. 329, 30.

⁴ Chievly v. Bond, 4 Mod. 105.

⁵ Whittersheim v. the Countess Dowager of Carlisle, 1 Hen. Bl. 631.—Renew v. Axton, Carth. 3. As to the point when the statute of limitation begins to run on a note payable on demand, Topham v. Braddick, 1 Taunt. 575, 6.—Sir William Jones, 194.—Godbolt, 437. 12 Mod. 444.—15 Ves. jun. 487.

⁶ Josselyn v. Lacier, 10 Mod. 294.

Where a bill or note is payable a certain time after sight no debt accrues until it has been presented to the drawee, therefore the statute of limitations is no bar to such a note unless it has been presented for payment six years before the action was commenced¹. With respect to promissory notes payable on demand it has been held that the statute runs from the date of the note, and not from the time of the demand². An indorsement on a bill or note by the holder of the payment of interest within six years may be given in evidence to prevent the operation of the statute of limitations if it were bonâ fide made when the six years had not elapsed³.

An acknowledgement by one of several drawers of a joint and several promissory note will take the case out of the statute as against any one of the other drawers in a separate action on the note against him⁴. And in an action against A. on the joint and several promissory note of himself and B. to take the case out of the statute of limitations it is enough to give in evidence a letter written by A. to B. within six years, desiring him to settle the debt⁵. But the acknowledgment by one partner to bind the other must, in such case, be clear and explicit, and therefore it is not sufficient in order to take a case out of the statute of limitations in an action on a promissory note to shew a payment by a joint maker of the note to the payee within six years, so as to throw it upon the defendant to shew that the payment was not made on account of the note⁶. Where the acceptor of a bill of exchange acknowledges his acceptance, and that he had been

¹ Holmes v. Harrison, 2 Taunt. 323.

² Christie v. Fonsick, C. P. London Sittings after M. T. 52 Geo. 3. Sir J. Mansfield. 2 Selwyn 4th ed. 131. 339.—Capp v. Lancaster, Cro. Eliz. 548.—Rumball v. Ball, 10 Mod. 38.—3 Salk. 227.—Ante, 321. Sed quære, see 14 East. 500.—3 Campb. 459.—1 Taunt. 575, 6.—Sir W. Jones, 194.—Godbolt, 437.—12 Mod. 444.—15 Ves. jun. 487.

³ Searle v. Lord Barrington, 2 Stra. 820.—2 Ves. sen. 43. 54.

⁴ Whitcomb v. Whiting, Doug. 652, 3.

⁵ Halliday v. Ward, 3 Campb. 32. and see 11 East. 585.—1 Stark. 81.

⁶ Holme v. Green, 1 Stark. 488.

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liable, but said that he was not liable then because it was out of date, and that he would not pay it, and that it was not in his power to pay it, this was deemed sufficient to take the case out of the statute¹.

It has been held, that where one of two drawers of a joint and several promissory note having become a bankrupt, the payee receive a dividend under the commission on account of the note, this will prevent the other drawer from availing himself of the statute in an action brought against him for the remainder of the money due on the note, the dividend having been received within six years before the action brought². But in a recent case where one of two joint drawers of a bill of exchange became bankrupt, and under his commission the indorsee prove a debt (beyond the amount of the bill) for goods sold, &c. and they accepted the bill as a security they then held for their debt, and afterwards received a dividend; it was held, that in an action by the indorsees of the bill against the solvent partner, the statute of limitations was a good defence, although the dividend had been paid by the assignees of the bankrupt partner within six years³.

With respect to the mode of taking advantage of these defences, those which in effect deny that the bill, &c. was made, or that the defendant or plaintiff was party to it, such as those which are founded on some defect in the instrument, apparent on the face of it, or on the ground that the supposed drawing, acceptance, or indorsement, do not amount to such act, cannot be pleaded, and can only be taken advantage of, under the general issue of non-assumpsit to which they amount. But all defences which admit the existence of a contract, but allege that it was never binding, or that if it were, it was either performed, or

¹ Leaper v. Tutton, 16 East. 420.

² Jackson v. Fairbank, 2 Hen. Bla. 340.

³ Brandram v. Wharton, 1 Bar. & Ald. 463.

discharged before breach, *may* be pleaded specially¹; though in general, matters which deny that the plaintiff ever had cause of action, are not pleaded, but are given in evidence under the general issue of non-assumpsit, which puts the plaintiff on proof of his right of action: where, however, such defences lie more in the knowledge of the defendant than the plaintiff, as in the case of infancy and coverture, it is considered fairer practice, to plead them in the first instance, or give notice of them to the plaintiff, previously to the trial of the cause, as otherwise the plaintiff may be surprised by them at the trial. Defences of the second description, which admit that the plaintiff once had right of action, are usually pleaded; and a tender, set-off, bankruptcy, or insolvency of the defendant, and the statute of limitations, *must in all cases* be pleaded².

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¹ *Hatton v. Morse*, 1 Salk. 394.—*Hussey v. Jacob*, 1 Lord Raym. 88, 9.—Com. Dig. tit. Pleader, E. 14.

² *Draper v. Glassop*, 1 Lord Raym. 153.

CHAPTER IV.

OF THE EVIDENCE IN AN ACTION ON A BILL,
NOTE, &c.

THE evidence to be adduced in an action on a bill or note, is to be considered with reference, first, to the *plaintiff's* cause of action; and secondly, the *defendant's* answer to the action.

The evidence which the *plaintiff* should adduce in support of his declaration, in which the bill, &c. is set forth, may be considered with reference, *first*, to the *facts* which must be proved; and *secondly*, to the *manner* of proving those facts.

*What facts the
plaintiff must
prove.*

With respect to the *facts* which must be proved, the evidence is in all cases governed by the pleadings, it being necessary to prove every thing put in issue, and no more. When the general issue of *non-assumpsit* is pleaded, the plaintiff must prove every material allegation in his declaration, the requisites of which have been already stated; but on an issue taken on a special plea, replication, or rejoinder, if there be no plea of non-assumpsit, it is only necessary to prove the particular point referred to the jury, for whatever is not expressly denied, is admitted by the pleading; and on the same principle, where the issue lies only on the defendant, as where it is joined on the plea of infancy, and there is no other plea, it is not incumbent on the plaintiff to adduce any evidence in support of his declaration.

Under the *general issue*, the plaintiff must prove,

1st. That the *bill* or *note*, declared on, was *made* as stated in the declaration, either in words, or that its legal operation was as therein described.

2dly. That the *defendant* became *party* to the bill as alleged in the pleadings.

3dly. The *plaintiff's interest* in the bill, as indorsee, bearer, &c. and sometimes the *consideration* which he gave for it. *What facts the plaintiff must prove.*

4thly. The *special averments*, and the *breach* of the defendant's contract.

We will consider each of these heads in their natural order, and the mode of proof to be adduced in support of them.

1st. The *bill or note and the allegations respecting it* must be proved as described in the declaration, in terms, or in substance, whoever may be the defendant, and any material variance will be fatal¹. If there were any mistake in the date, or circumstances of the instrument necessary to be explained, then evidence must be adduced accordingly. And if the plaintiff sue on a promissory note which purports to be payable to a person of a different name, he should be prepared with evidence, that he was the person intended². ^{1st.} Proof of the bill, as described.

In an action against the acceptor or indorser of a bill³, or the indorser of a note⁴, the hand-writing of the drawer of the bill and the maker of the note, are considered as admitted and need not be proved, nor can it be contradicted by the defendant, and the circumstance of its having been forged constitutes no defence, unless it appear that the bill was accepted before the drawee had sight of the bill, in which case

¹ Ante, 452.

² Willis v. Barrett, 2 Stark. 29.

³ Wilkinson v. Lulwedge, 1 Stra. 648.—Jenys v. Fowler, 2 Stra. 946.—Price v. Neale, Burr. 1351.—1 Bla. Rep. 390.—Per Dampier, J. in Bass v. Clive, 4 M. & S. 15, ante, 241, n. 3.—Bayl. 217.

⁴ Free and others v. Hawkins, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 550. In an action against the payee of a promissory note, who was likewise the indorser, held that his indorsement was an admission of the hand-writing of the maker. Action by indorsee against the payee of a promissory note, of which Sir Robert Salisbury was the maker, and the defendant became the payee and indorser as surety for Sir R. S. to the plaintiffs. The only evidence of the making of the note by Sir R. S. was by proving the indorsement of the note by the defendant, which was objected to by Lens, Serjeant. But Gibbs, C. J. ruled from the analogy of a bill of exchange, where the acceptance is an admission of the hand-writing of the drawer, that the indorsement by the payee is an admission of the hand-writing of the maker.

1st. Proof of the bill, as described.

it is said, that the drawer's hand-writing must be proved¹.

In an action against the drawer or indorser of a bill for default of payment, it is unnecessary to allege that it was accepted, but if it be stated, it must be proved²; though proof of an express promise of payment by the drawer after the bill was due, precludes the necessity of proving such acceptance³.

If the bill were in foreign money it should be proved what was the rate of exchange, and value of such money, at the time the bill became due; and if the bill were payable at usances, the duration of such usances should be proved.

Mode of proving bill.

With respect to the *MODE of proving the bill, and the allegations respecting it*, on the rule that the plaintiff must adduce in support of his action the best evidence in his power, he must in general produce the *instrument* declared on, in proof of the allegations that it was made, and proof of the mere loss of the bill will not in general excuse the non

¹ Id. *ibid.*—Bayl. 219.—Peake, Ev. 4th. ed. 248, *sed quære*.

² Jones v. Morgan and another, 2 Campb. 474.—Bayl. 181, 219, 220.—Waynam v. Bond, 1 Campb. 174.

Jones v. Morgan and another, 2 Campb. 474. This was an action on a bill of exchange drawn by the defendants, payable to their own order, and indorsed by them to the plaintiff. The bill was drawn upon one T. Burt, by whom it was dishonoured for non-payment, and the declaration unnecessarily stated that he had accepted it according to the usage and custom of merchants. No evidence could be adduced of his hand-writing, but it appeared that after the bill was due, one of the defendants several times promised the plaintiff to pay it. The plaintiff's counsel contended there was no necessity to prove the acceptance, as it had been stated unnecessarily, the liability of the defendants, at all events attaching, upon the non-payment of the bill, and at any rate, that the acceptance was admitted by the promises to pay after the bill was due, and in the plaintiff's hands. Lord Ellenborough was clearly of opinion that the acceptance being stated in the declaration must be proved, and he was inclined to think at the trial, that the promises to pay did not amount to an admission of an acceptance, he therefore directed a nonsuit. But upon a motion in the ensuing term, to set the nonsuit aside, his Lordship and the rest of the court thought upon authority of Lundie v. Robertson, 7 East. 231, that the promises to pay were a sufficient admission of the acceptance, and upon the same evidence at the sittings after Michaelmas Term last, the plaintiff had a verdict. See also Bosanquet v. Anderson, 6 Esp. R. 43, post, 507. note.

³ Id. *ibid.*—Bosanquet v. Anderson, 6 Esp. 43, post, 507.

production of it¹. Where, however, it can be proved that the original bill has been destroyed², or that it is withheld by the defendant³, it will suffice to produce a copy, or to give parol evidence of its contents; and where the defendant tore his own note of hand, a copy was admitted as good evidence⁴. But in these cases, the plaintiff must shew sufficient probability to satisfy the court, that the original note was genuine⁵. And it has been decided, that when the original note is in the hands of the defendant, the plaintiff must give him notice to produce it, or he will not be allowed to go into evidence of its loss or contents⁶; and this rule has even been considered as applying to an action of trover, for a bill of exchange in the possession of the defendant⁷; but it is now established, that in such action of trover, or in any other proceeding, as on an indictment for stealing a bill, or for forging a note which the defendant swallowed, which necessarily imports that the plaintiff means to charge the defendant with the possession of the instrument, no notice to produce need be served upon him⁸. Where a notice has been given in order to let in the secondary evidence, the service of such notice, and the destruction or detention by the defendant of the instrument, must be proved⁹.

If there was a *subscribing witness* to the bill or note, or to an indorsement thereof, then in an action against the drawer of the bill or the maker of the note, it will be necessary to subpoena such witness, and if there be any doubt as to his proving that he saw the defendant write his name, the subscription must be proved by some other evidence, which will in

1st. Proof of the bill, as described.

¹ Ante, 197, 8.

² Ante, 200.

³ Ante, 197.

⁴ Per Holt, C. J. Anonymous, Ld. Raym. 731.

⁵ Goodier v. Lake, 1 Atk. 446.

⁶ Phil. on Evid. 3d edit. 389.

⁷ Cowan v. Abrahams, 1 Esp. Rep. 50.

⁸ How v. Hall, 14 East. 274.—Phil. on Evid. 3d edit. 391.

⁹ Phil. on Evid. 3d edit. 390.

1st. Proof of the bill, as described.

that case be admissable¹; and if a person who sees a defendant sign a promissory note, but is not desired by the parties to attest it, he cannot by afterwards putting his name to it, prove it as an attesting witness².

If the subscribing witness be dead, proof of his hand-writing, and that the defendant was present when the note was prepared, is sufficient, without proving the hand-writing of the defendant³. And in an action on a promissory note, to which there was a subscribing witness who had since become insane, it was held, that proof of his hand-writing was sufficient to prove the making of the note⁴. But it seems most prudent, in these cases, to be prepared with proof of the hand-writing of the maker, and of the witness, in order to establish the identity of the maker; and in the first mentioned case, where the witness was dead, it was doubted whether the mere proof of his hand-writing, without the evidence of the defendant's having been present when it was prepared, would have sufficed⁵. It has recently been determined, that where

¹ *Lemon v. Dean*, Lancaster Lent Assizes, 1810. cor. Le Blanc, J. 2 Campb. 636. Action on a promissory note, which appeared to be witnessed by one Bentley. Bentley was called, and swore that he did not see the defendant subscribe the note, but the defendant merely desired him to try to write his name upon the paper, and that he did not observe whether any thing was at that time written on it. Plaintiff's counsel then proposed to call witnesses to prove the defendant's hand-writing.—Williams objected, that there being a subscribing witness to the note, who was not incompetent, no other evidence of it could be given. He cited *Phipps v. Parker*, 1 Campb. 412.—Le Blanc, J. "I will make no observation upon that case. It may be distinguishable, as there the instrument was a deed. But I am quite clear, that if the subscribing witness to a note when called cannot prove it, by reason of his not having seen it drawn, the plaintiff may proceed to prove by other means." Vide *Fasset v. Brown*, Peake Rep. 23.—*Grellier v. Neale*, ib. 146.

² *M'Craw v. Gentry*, 3 Campb. 232.

³ *Nelson v. Whittall*, 1 Selw. & Barn. 19.

⁴ Per Ld. Ellenborough, *Currie v. Child*, 3 Campb. 283. cited in *Nelson v. Whittall*, 1 Selw. & Barn. 22. n. a. and see *Gough v. Cecil*, Selw. 4th edit. 516. n.

⁵ Per Bayley, J. in *Nelson v. Whittall*, 1 Selw. & Barn. 21. "It is laid down, in Mr. Phillip's Treatise on the Law of Evidence, that the proof of the hand-writing of the attesting witness is, in all cases, sufficient. I always felt this difficulty, that that proof alone does not connect the defendant with the note. If the attesting witness

issue is founded on a plea of non est factum, in an action on a bond, some evidence must be given of the identity of the party executing the deed, which is not to be assumed from its having been executed by a person in his name, in the presence of the attesting witness, who was unacquainted with him¹. The payment of money into court generally precludes the defendant from disputing the validity of the bill, or shewing that it is improperly stamped². In such case the plaintiff should on the trial produce the rule, and it will not suffice to call the attorney to prove that he took the money out of court³.

1st. Proof of the bill, as described.

Secondly, It must be proved *that the defendant was a party to the bill or note*. Thus in an action against the acceptor of a bill, it must be proved, that the defendant accepted the bill either verbally or in writing⁴; and if the acceptance was made by an agent, it must be shewn that he was legally authorised by the principal⁵; and in general the agent himself should be subpoenaed; but it is not in all cases necessary to subpoena the agent himself: thus in an action on a policy of insurance, the affidavit of a person, stating that he subscribed the policy on the behalf of the defendant, which affidavit the defendant himself had previously used on a motion to put off the trial, was, under the particular circumstances, admitted as proof of the agency; for the defendant having used the affidavit for such a purpose, must be considered as

2dly. Proof that defendant was party to the bill, &c.

himself gave evidence, he would prove, not merely that the instrument was executed, but the identity of the person so executing it; but the proof of the hand-writing of the attesting witness establishes merely, that some person assuming the name, which the instrument purports to bear, executed it, and it does not go to establish the identity of that person; and in that respect the proof seems to me defective. In this case, however, there is evidence sufficient to connect the defendant with the note, for he was present in the room when it was prepared.

¹ Per Dampier, J. in *Middleton v. Sandford*, 4 Campb. 34.

² *Israel v. Benjamin*, 3 Campb. 40.

³ *Id. ibid.*

⁴ *Ante*, 221 to 238.

⁵ *Johnson v. Mason*, 1 Esp. Rep. 90.

2dly. Proof that defendant was party to the bill, &c.

having known and adopted its contents, though the single circumstance that the affidavit purported to have been made by a person as agent, would not have been a sufficient proof of his being invested with that authority¹; and when it has been proved² that A. is agent of B., whatever A. does or says, or writes, in the making of a contract, as agent of B., is admissible in evidence, because it is part of the contract which he makes for B., and which therefore binds him, but it is not admissible as the agent's account of what passes³.

In an action against *several* acceptors of a bill, or makers of a note, the hand-writing of each must be proved⁴; or it must be shewn that a partnership existed at the date of the instrument, and that the partnership name was written by one of the partners or

¹ Johnson v. Ward, 6 Esp. Rep. 48.—Phil. Evid. 3d ed. 79.

² Per Gibbs, J. in Langhorn v. Allnutt, 4 Taunt. 519.—Phil. Evid. 8d ed. 78.

³ Gray v. Palmers and another, 1 Esp. Rep. 135.—Per Lawrence, J. in Sheriff v. Wilks, 1 East. 52.

Gray and others v. Palmers and Hodgson, 1 Esp. Rep. 135. Assumpsit by the plaintiffs as indorsees of a promissory note against the defendants as the drawers. The note was a joint and several one signed by James and John Palmer, and Edward Hodgson. The declaration was against them jointly in the common form, viz. that the said James and John Palmer, and Edward Hodgson, made their certain note in writing, commonly called a promissory note, their proper hands-writing being thereto subscribed, &c. &c. &c. Hodgson, one of the defendants, had pleaded a sham plea of judgment recovered, to which there was the usual replication of nul tiel record, and demurrer, in which state the pleadings then stood as to him; the two other defendants James and John Palmer severally pleaded non assumpsit, and these were the issues in the cause on the record. The counsel for the plaintiff proved the hands-writing of James and John Palmer, and there rested their case. The counsel for the defendants insisted that this alone was not sufficient; for that it was also necessary to prove the hand-writing of Hodgson, the other defendant, in as much as the plaintiffs had declared on a joint contract against the three defendants. It was answered, that Hodgson had by his plea admitted the note to be his; and it was therefore only necessary to prove it against those parties who had by their pleas denied it to be theirs, and that being proved as to them, gave the plaintiff sufficient title to recover. Lord Kenyon ruled, that it was necessary to prove the hands-writing of all the parties to the note; his lordship said, that between the plaintiffs and Hodgson it was unnecessary to prove his hand-writing, he having by his plea of judgment recovered not denied it; but that the other defendants had a right to have the declaration proved, which could only be by proving the hands-writing of all the defendants subscribed to the note, as the plaintiffs had averred in the declaration they had done.

their agent¹. If the partnership be established, then it will suffice to prove an admission by one of the defendants of the hand-writing of one of the partners to the acceptance, in the name of the firm²; and it will not be necessary to prove that the defendants were of the christian names stated in the declaration³.

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And this doctrine has been carried so far, that in an action against three persons as drawers of a bill of exchange, purporting to have been drawn by an agent of the firm upon one of the partners, it was held, that the acceptance by the drawee was evidence against the three partners of the bill, having regularly drawn and rendered it unnecessary to prove the authority of the agent⁴. So the admission by one partner of his partnership with the co-defendants, who were sued with him, as acceptors of a bill of exchange, and who had been outlawed, has been received as proof against him of a joint promise by all⁵. The

¹ Thwaites v. Richardson, Peake. Rep. 16.

² Id. *ibid.*—Phil. Evid. 3d ed. 75.—Hodenpyl v. Vingerhoed and another:

Hodenpyl v. Vingerhoed and another, cor. Abbot, J. 3d July, 1818, Guildhall. Assumpsit on a promissory note, dated at Rotterdam, and drawn in Dutch, and for the payment of 900 guilders to the plaintiff, and subscribed by the firm of "Vingerhoed and Christian." The declaration stated several christian names of each defendant. A witness swore that he knew the firm of Vingerhoed and Christian, and that there were two persons of those surnames in the firm, but that he did not know their christian names; and that in a conversation with Vingerhoed, he admitted that the note was subscribed by him in the name of the firm. This was held sufficient to establish the action against both defendants. Blunt and Bowman for plaintiffs, but see post, 506, n. 1.

³ Id. *ibid.*

⁴ Porthouse v. Parker and others, 1 Campb. 82.

Porthouse v. Parker and others, 1 Campb. 82. This was an action by payee against the drawers of a bill, which purported to be drawn by one Wood, as the agent of George, James, and John Parker, upon John Parker. There was no proof that Wood had authority from the defendants to draw the bill, but a witness swore that he, as the agent of John Parker, the drawee, and one of the defendants, had accepted it on his account. Lord Ellenborough held, that the bill having been accepted by order of one of the defendant's, this was sufficient evidence of its having been regularly drawn; and further, that the acceptor being likewise a drawer, there would be no occasion for the plaintiff to prove that the defendants had received express notice of the dishonour of the bill, as this must have necessarily been known to one of them, and the knowledge of one was the knowledge of all.

⁵ Per Lord Ellenborough in Sangster v. Mazarredo and others, 1 Stark. 161.—Phil. Evid. 3d ed. 161.

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&c.

rule has even been extended in actions so far as to admit the declarations of one partner to be evidence against another, concerning joint contracts and their joint interest, although the person who has made such declarations is not a party to the suit; as where in an action by a creditor against some of the partnership firm, the answer of another partner to a bill filed by other creditors was received in evidence against the defendants, not indeed to prove the partnership, but that being established, as an admission against those who are as one person with him in interest¹. And the admission of a partner, though not a party to the suit, is evidence as to joint contracts against any other partner, as well after the determination of the partnership as during its continuance². So we have seen that the admission of one of several drawers of a promissory note is sufficient to take the case out of the Statute of Limitations, in a separate action against the others³. But in a joint action against three persons as acceptors of a bill of exchange, as a joint liability must be proved, the circumstance of two of the defendants having been outlawed will not dispense with proof of their joint liability, although the defendant who alone pleaded to the action was in justice liable to pay the debt⁴. So in an action against two persons, as makers of a note, if one of them suffer judgment by default, his signature must nevertheless be proved on the trial against the other⁵.

In an action against the acceptor of a bill, payable *after sight*, it is in general necessary to prove the date or time of the acceptance; but if his signature as acceptor is proved, the date of the acceptance appear-

¹ Grant v. Jackson, Peake, 203.—Wood v. Braddick, 1 Taunt. 104. Nicholl v. Dowding and Kemp, 1 Stark. 81.

² Wood and others v. Braddick, 1 Taunt. 104.

³ Ante, 478, 9.

⁴ Sheriff v. Wilkes and others, 1 East. 48.

⁵ Gray and others v. Palmer, 1 Esp. Rep. 135. ante, 488.

ing over it, although in a different hand-writing, will be presumed to have been written by his authority¹.

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In an action against the *drawer* or *indorser* of a bill or note, the *hand-writing of the defendant*, or a signature by his agent, having power to bind him, must be established in evidence, in like manner as in an action against the acceptor of a bill²; and if an indorsement on a promissory note purports to have been attested by a subscribing witness, such witness must be called³; but if the defendant pay money into court generally, or upon the count, on the instrument, the signature and its validity is admitted, and need not be proved, and the only question to be tried will then be the quantum⁴.

The mode of proving that the defendant was a party to the bill or note has already been partially considered⁵. In an action against the acceptor, his acceptance, if by parol, must be proved by the witness who heard him accept; and if the answer, which it is insisted, amounted to an acceptance, was given by a clerk, or third person, that person must be subpoenaed; and it has been held, that proof of an answer given at the house of the drawee, that the bill would be taken up when due, is not sufficient proof of an acceptance, but it must be shewn that the answer was given by the drawee, or by his authority⁶. If the acceptance

Mode of proof.

¹ Glossop v. Jacob, 4 Campb. 227.—1 Stark. 69. S. C.

² Gutteridge v. Smith, 2 Hen. Bla. 374.

³ Stone v. Metcalf, 1 Stark. 53.—Ante, 485.

⁴ Gutteridge v. Smith, 2 Hen. Bla. 374.

⁵ Ante, 487 to 491.

⁶ Sayer v. Kitchen, 1 Esp. Rep. 209. Assumpsit against acceptor of a bill, drawn upon him by one Holland, and also a further sum for goods sold and delivered. The plaintiff was unable to prove the hand-writing of the defendant subscribed to the bill by any witness who was acquainted with it, but offered the following as an admission by him, tantamount to proof of his acceptance. This evidence was, that of a clerk of the banking-house into which the bill in question had been paid, and who had brought the bill to the defendant's house for acceptance. The defendant was not then at home; but the clerk received for answer at the house, that the bill would be taken up when due. Mingay, for the plaintiff, contended, that this answer so received at the house of the defendant to a bill, upon which his name appeared

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&c.

was in writing, it must be produced, and the signature proved. In an action against the drawer or indorser of a bill or note his signature must also be proved. The signature may be established by a witness, who can swear to the hand-writing, or to an admission of it by the party sued.

The simplest and most obvious *proof of hand-writing* is the testimony of a witness who saw the defendant subscribe the bill or note; but (unless there was a subscribing witness, who, we have seen, must be subpoenaed¹) this evidence is not essential, and it will suffice to call a witness who is acquainted with the defendant, and who, from seeing him write, or from correspondence with him, has acquired a knowledge of his hand-writing, and can swear to his belief, that the subscription is the defendant's; and in an action on a foreign bill to prove the hand-writing of the defendant, it is evidence to go to a jury that a person who saw him write *once*, thinks the hand-writing alike, though he has no belief on the subject². This

as drawee, was a sufficient acknowledgment of the acceptance, upon which to charge him. Lord Kenyon ruled, that it alone, without some proof of the defendant's hand-writing, or something to shew that the acknowledgment came from him, was insufficient; the plaintiff having no further evidence to that point the count on the note was abandoned.

¹ Ante, 485. 491.

² *Garrells v. Alexander*, 4 Esp. Rep. 37. Assumpsit on a foreign bill of exchange. To prove the hand-writing of the defendant, the plaintiff called the clerk of the defendant's attorney. His evidence was, that he had seen the defendant sign the bail bond in the cause, but had never seen him write on any other occasion. Being asked whether he believed the acceptance to be the hand-writing of the defendant, he said he could form no belief on the subject; it was like the hand-writing in which the bail-bond was subscribed, and he was about to compare them together. Lord Kenyon told him, he must form a judgment without such comparison of hands. He then looked on the bill again, and said it was like the hand-writing in which the defendant had subscribed the bail-bond, but that he could not speak to any belief further than he had already done.—Garrow for the defendant objected that there was not sufficient evidence, and that it would be of dangerous consequences to allow such loose evidence of a hand-writing to charge a party with a debt.

Lord Kenyon. This is the case of a foreign bill of exchange, and I think there is evidence to go to the jury, and that I am bound to leave it to them. To be sure mere comparison of hands is not admissible evidence of itself: that was Algernon Sydney's case; but

suffices, because in every person's manner of writing there is a certain distinct prevailing character, which may be easily discovered by observation, and when once known, may be afterwards applied as a standard to try any other species of writing whose genuineness is disputed. A witness may therefore be called and asked whether he has seen the defendant write, and afterwards whether he believes the signature to the bill or note to be the defendant's hand-writing¹. The usual course is to subpoena a witness who can swear he knows the defendant, and that he has seen him write frequently, or has frequently addressed letters to him, and receives answers in return; and that from the knowledge he has thus acquired of his hand-writing, he believes the particular signature to be the defendant's hand-writing. A knowledge of the hand-writing acquired by a witness in the course of correspondence with the defendant, is sufficient to enable him to swear to his belief of the hand-writing²; but barely having seen letters, purporting to have been franked by him, or other papers, which he has no authentic information are of the defendant's hand-writing, is not sufficient³.

2dly. Proof that defendant was party to the bill, &c.

In forming this belief it has been observed, that a witness therefore, when called to speak of the identity of the defendant's hand-writing, ought to judge solely

there the witness had never seen him write, and the only evidence in the case was mere comparison of hands; but in the present case the witness has seen the defendant write, and he speaks to the likeness of the hand-writing, in which the bill is accepted, bears to that which he has seen the defendant actually write; I therefore think that it is evidence to go to the jury.

But it has been holden, that a witness who has only seen the drawee write his name, pending the action for the purpose of shewing the witness his usual mode of writing his acceptance, is not an admissible witness for such drawee to disprove his hand writing to the bill, on which he is sued, because the defendant might write differently before the witness purposely to establish a defence. *Stranger v. Searle*, 1 Esp. Rep. 14, 15.

¹ Peake. Evid. 4th ed. 109, 110.—Phil. Evid. 3d edit. 422.

² See Phil. Evid. 3d ed. 422, 3, 4. 427, 8.—Peake, Ev. 4th ed. 110.

³ *Cary v. Pitt*, Peake. Evid. 4th ed. 140.

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from the impression which the hand-writing itself makes upon his mind, without taking any extrinsic circumstance into his consideration¹; and therefore where a witness said, that looking at the hand-writing he should have thought it to have been that of the party whose name it bore, but from his knowledge of him, he thought he could not have signed such a paper, it was held that this was, *prima facie* evidence of the hand-writing²; and on the same principle where it was contended that the paper produced was the forgery of a third person, evidence that such third person had forged the defendant's name to other instruments of a similar nature was held to be inadmissible³, and even in one case which came before the court, a party who contended that the hand-writing was a forgery, was only permitted, after a great deal of other evidence, to examine a clerk at the post office, whose business it is to inspect franks and detect forgeries, to prove that from the appearance of the hand-writing it was, in his opinion, a forgery, and not genuine hand-writing; and in a subsequent case⁴ Lord Kenyon said, that such evidence was wholly inadmissible, and observed, that though in *Revet v. Braham* it was admitted, yet that in his direction to the jury he had laid no stress at all upon it.

It has been observed, that the analogies of law appear strongly to support the admissibility of this evidence, for opinion founded on observation and experience is received in most questions of a similar nature. There is a certain freedom of character in that which is original, which imitation seldom attains, and the want of that freedom is more likely to be detected by one whose attention has been directed to

¹ Peake, Ev. 4th ed. 110.

² *Dacosta v. Pym*, sittings at Guildhall, after Trin. Term, 37 Geo. 3. Peake, Ev. 4th ed. App. 85.

³ *Balcetti v. Serani*, Peake, N. P. 142.—*Graft v. Lord Browlow Bertie*, sittings at Westminster after Trin. Term, 1777, MS.—Peake, Ev. 4th ed. 110.

⁴ *Cary v. Pitt*, Peake, Ev. 4th ed. 110.

the subject than by another who has never given his mind to such pursuits. It does not therefore seem too much to say that such evidence is in all cases inadmissible, though it certainly ought to be received with great caution, and meet with little attention, unless as corroborating other and stronger evidence.

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The true distinction as to the admissibility of such evidence seems to have been taken by Mr. Baron Hotham on the trial of *The King v. Cator*¹, where the defendant being indicted for publishing a written libel, and a person from the post office who had never seen him write being called as a witness, that judge permitted the witness to give general evidence that the writing appeared to be in a feigned hand; but when the witness was asked whether, on comparing such hand-writing with papers proved by others to be the genuine hand-writing of the defendant, he could say it was the disguised hand of the same person, his lordship rejected the evidence attempted to be introduced by such examination, because it arose only from comparison of hands. The case of *Revet v. Braham*, may therefore still be considered as an existing authority to shew, that for the purpose of proving generally and in the abstract that an hand-writing is *not genuine*, such evidence is admissible, though deserving of little attention for the want of freedom in the hand-writing. And the painting of the letters, as it was called by the witness in that case, may arise from the infirmity of the writer, or his not having formed a fixed character, or many other causes which a person unacquainted with the genuine hand-writing cannot take into his consideration. A tradesman who is daily making entries to his books, will acquire a more free and steady character than an illiterate person who can but just write his name; and a man whose habits of life lead him to write much oftener and with less care, will still

¹ 4 Esp. Cas. 117.

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get more of a peculiar character in his hand-writing, all which circumstances should certainly be taken into the consideration of a jury before they give weight to such evidence.

It has been well observed that inasmuch, as the mind arrives at the belief of hand-writing merely by recollection of the general character from an acquaintance by frequently seeing it, and not from the formation of particular letters or a single inspection, courts of justice have wisely rejected all evidence from bare comparison of hands unsupported by other circumstances; they will not therefore permit two papers one of which is proved to be the hand-writing of a party to be delivered to a jury for the purpose of comparing them together, and thence inferring that the other is also of his hand-writing¹; but where witnesses have been called to prove the similitude of hand-writing, and other witnesses have from the same premises drawn a different conclusion, this rule has been relaxed in favor of a jury whose habits of life have accustomed them to the sight of hand-writing², but this mode of proceeding however seems rather a departure from the strict rules of evidence, and before an illiterate jury would probably not be adopted³.

In general the signature of a party to a bill or note may be proved as against him by his *admission*; and if he made such admission before the bill was due, and the holder received the bill on the faith of such representation, the party will be precluded afterwards from disputing the fact, or shewing that the hand-writing was a forgery⁴: and in an action against a person as acceptor, though the plaintiff fail in proving

¹ Macferson v. Thoytes, Peake, N. P. 20.—Brookhard v. Woodley, Id. note a.

² Allesbrook v. Roach, sittings at Westminster after Trin. Term, 1795, MS. 1 Esp. Cas. 351, S. C.—Dacosta v. Pym, ante, 494.

³ Peake, Ev. 4th ed. 110 to 115.

⁴ Leach v. Buchanan, 4 Esp. Rep. 226.—Cooper v. Le Blanc, 2 Stra. 1051, ante, 241, 2.—Hart v. King, 12 Mod. 309.—Bayl. 223.

the defendant's hand-writing, and it appear to be a forgery, yet proof that the defendant had paid several other bills, accepted in like manner, will establish his liability¹. And an admission of a hand-writing, made by the defendant, pending a treaty for compromising the suit, is evidence against him². So in an action against an indorser, proof that the defendant had written a letter, stating that he had received a bill, corresponding with that upon which the action was brought, and that after issue joined, he had declared that he came to town to hasten the trial of a cause brought against him, on an indorsement he had made upon a bill, and that he carried the cause down by proviso, was held sufficient³. But an admission in general only operates against the party making it, and therefore proof that one of the indorsers had confessed his signature is not admissible evidence in an action by an indorsee against the drawer of a bill⁴; and we have seen, that in an action against several drawers, indorsers, or acceptors, a mere admission upon *the pleadings* by one of his signature will not exempt the plaintiff from proving it against the others, though an admission *in fact* would be otherwise⁵. The payment of money into court, generally, on the whole declaration, precludes the defendant from disputing his signature⁶.

2dly. Proof that defendant was party to the bill, &c.

But an offer to pay a part as a compromise is no evidence, because, as observed by Lord Mansfield,

¹ Barber v. Gingell, 3 Esp. Rep. 60.—Ante, 34. n. 3.—Bayl. 224, 5.

² Walridge v. Kennison, 1 Esp. Rep. 143.

³ Dale v. Lubbock, 1 Barnard. K. B. 199.—Bayl. 224.

⁴ Hemmings v. Robinson, Barnes, 3d ed. 436.—In an action by the indorsee of a note against the maker, it was reserved as a point whether the acknowledgment of an indorser was sufficient evidence to prove his indorsement, and the court held not, but see post, 506, n. 2.

⁵ Ante, 489, 490.

⁶ Gutteridge v. Smith, 2 Hen. Bla. 374.—Watkins v. Towers, 2 T.R. 275.—Guillot v. Nock, 1 Esp. Rep. 347.—Israel v. Benjamin, 3 Campb. 40.

2dly. Proof that defendant was party to the bill, &c.

men must be permitted to endeavour to buy their peace without prejudice to them, if the offer do not succeed'.

A promise by the acceptor or other party to pay the bill after it was due will preclude the necessity for proof of the defendants, or any other parties handwriting¹.

3dly. Proof of the plaintiff's interest, &c.

Thirdly. It will be incumbent *on the plaintiff to prove his interest* in the bill or note, or, in other words, how he became a party to it. The *payee* or the *bearer* of a bill or note, originally payable to bearer, has in general only to produce the instrument; though under suspicious circumstances, the bearer of a note transferrable by delivery, may be required to prove that he or some person, under whom he makes his title, took it *bonâ fide*, and gave a valuable consideration for it². But if in an action by the indorsee of a note, payable to A. or bearer, the indorsement by A. be unnecessarily stated, it must be proved³. Proof of a promissory note, payable to A. B., generally, is *primâ facie* evidence of a promise to A. B. the

¹ Bull. N. P. 236. *Gunn v. Gulloch*, Westm. Sittings after Trin. Term, 1775.

² *Helmsley v. Loader*, 2 Campb. 450.—*Jones v. Morgan*, Id. 474. Ante, 484.—*Rosanquet v. Anderson*, 6 Esp. Rep. 43, post, 507.

³ Per Lord Mansfield, in *Grant v. Vaughan*, 3 Burr. 1527.—Ante, 89. n. 2.

⁴ *Wayman v. Bend*, 1 Campb. 175.—*Rex v. Stevens*, 5 East. 244.—1 Smith. 437. S. C. ; and see ante, 484, n. 2.

Wayman v. Bend, 1 Campb. 175. Action against the defendant as maker of a promissory note for £200, payable to L. Toader or bearer. The declaration stated, that L. Toader, to whom the sum of money mentioned in the note was payable, indorsed it to the plaintiff. No evidence of this indorsement being given, it was contended, that the plaintiff's case was imperfect, and that he must be *called*. The counsel on the opposite side answered, that the averment being unnecessary might be rejected; and that at any rate the plaintiff might recover under the count for money had and received, the note being for value received. Lord Ellenborough held, that as an indorsement was stated, though unnecessarily in the count on the note, it must be proved; and that the plaintiff could not recover under any of the money counts, as he was not an original party to the bill, and there was no evidence of any value being received by the defendant from him. A witness, however, was afterwards found who proved the handwriting of L. Toader, and the plaintiff had a verdict.

father, and not to A. B. the son, the names being the same; but A. B., the son, bringing the action, and being described as the younger in the declaration, and being in possession of the note, is entitled to recover upon it¹.

3dly. Proof of the plaintiff's interest, &c.

An *indorsee* of a bill or note, transferrable in the first instance only by indorsement, must in an action against the acceptor or drawer prove that the bill was indorsed by the person to whose order it was intended to be made payable²; and if there were a subscribing

¹ *Sweeting v. Fowler and another*, 1 Stark. 106.

² *Smith v. Chester*, 1 T. R. 654.—*Macferson v. Thoytes*, Peake, Rep. 20.

Smith v. Chester, 1 T. R. 654. Indorsee of a bill of exchange against the acceptor. It appeared at the trial before Buller, J. at the last sittings at Westminster, that when the bill was accepted there were several indorsements upon it. But the plaintiffs not being able to prove the hand-writing of the first indorser was nonsuited. Bower now moved to set aside this nonsuit, on the ground that as these indorsements were on the bill at the time of the acceptance, they must be taken to have been admitted by the drawee, and he could not afterwards dispute them; and he cited in support of this a determination of Lord Mansfield's, in the case of *Pratt v. Howison*, Sittings after Trinity Term, 28 Geo. 3. at Guildhall; and another case, in *Sayer*, 223, observing that there would be great hardship in the case of foreign bills of exchange, in many instances, on account of the difficulty and inconvenience of proving the hand-writing of the first indorser, who may be unknown to the holder. Per Ashurst, J. the law has been otherwise settled; and if it were not so, there would be no difference in this respect between bills payable to order, and those payable to bearer, and it would open a door to great fraud. Per Buller, J. This point was much considered in a late case before this court, when they were perfectly clear that an indorsee of a bill of exchange, in an action against the acceptor, was obliged to prove the hand-writing of the first indorser. For when a bill is presented for acceptance, the acceptor only looks to the hand-writing of the drawer, which he is afterwards precluded from disputing; and it is on that account that an acceptor is liable, even although the bill be forged. Per Grose, J. This matter appears extremely clear; for the payment of a bill of exchange to the holder is no payment to the person in whose favour it is drawn, unless it is indorsed by him. Rule refused.

Macferson v. Thoytes, Peake, Rep. 20. Assumpsit on a bill of exchange, indorsee against acceptor. The bill was drawn by one Parry, payable to his own order, and the name of Parry was indorsed on it. The plaintiff proved the hand-writing of all the indorsers, except the first. The defendant's counsel insisted that this should be proved. It was answered, that the acceptance was an admission of the hand-writing of the drawer, and that by comparing that hand-writing with the indorsement, they would be found to correspond. Per Lord Kenyon. Comparison of hands is no evidence. If it were so, the situa-

3dly. Proof of the plaintiff's interest, &c.

witness to the indorsement, he must be subpoenaed¹. And even in an action against the acceptor, the first indorsement of a bill must be proved, although it was payable to the drawer's own order, and indorsed by him, because the acceptance only admits the hand-writing of the party as drawer, and not as indorser². And it has even been holden, that the circumstance of the defendant having accepted the bill after it was indorsed, does not dispense with proof of such indorsement³; and in an action by an indorsee against the drawer, the indorsement of the payee must be proved, although the bill with the indorsement upon it was shewn to the defendant after it was due, and he did not then object to the title of the holder⁴, and proof that the bill was indorsed by a person of the same name as the person intended will not suffice; and therefore if there be any doubt whether the transfer were made by the proper party, the witness who is to prove the indorsement should be prepared to prove the identity of the party, though in general it will lie on the defendant to disprove the identity⁵; and though the drawee by the terms of his acceptance make it payable at a banker's, they must in an action for the money as paid for his use, prove the first indorser's hand-writing⁶. And though the acceptance

tion of a jury, who could neither write nor read would be a strange one; for it is impossible for such a jury to compare the hand-writing. The plaintiff was therefore called.

¹ *Stone v. Metcalf*, 1 Stark. 53.—Ante, 491.

² Ante, 499, n. 2. and *Bosanquet v. Anderson*, 6 Esp. Rep. 43. post, 507.

³ Id. *ibid*.

⁴ *Duncan v. Scott*, 1 Campb. 101.—2 Campb. 183. in notes.

⁵ *Mead v. Young*, 4 T. R. 28.—Ante, 144.

⁶ *Foster v. Clements*, 2 Campb. 17. Assumpsit for money paid. Plea the general issue. This action was brought by Messrs. Forster, Lubbocks, and Co. bankers in London, to recover the sum of £100, paid by them to the holder of a bill of exchange, accepted by the defendant, payable at their banking-house. The bill was drawn by one Hanley, payable to his own order, and when paid by the plaintiffs, had his indorsement upon it. Paley, of counsel for the plaintiffs, at first satisfied himself with proving the defendant's hand-writing to the bill. That it was paid by the plaintiffs; and that the defendant had then no effects in their hands. Lord Ellenborough said

of a bill drawn by procuration admits the agent's hand-writing and his authority, yet if it does not admit the indorsement by the same procuration, and in an action against the acceptor, the indorsement as well as the authority to make it must be proved¹.

Sdly. Proof of the plaintiff's interest, &c.

he must go farther, and give evidence of the indorsement by Hanley, to whose order the bill was payable. Paley contended that *prima facie* the hand-writing must be taken to be Hanley's, and that as it was the custom of bankers to pay a bill with the name of the payee written on the back of it, a request from the acceptor must be understood for them to do so. When this bill was presented to the plaintiffs for payment, it appeared in a negotiable shape, and they were authorized to pay it without inquiring into the title of the holder. Per Lord Ellenborough, if the acceptor of a bill of exchange makes it payable at a banker's, he requests the latter to pay it only to the payee or his own order, and not to any person who presents it. If the banker pays it without ascertaining the indorsement to be genuine, it is at his own risk. The name of Hanley upon this bill may be forged, in which case the plaintiffs have paid it in their own wrong. Evidence was afterwards given of an acknowledgement by the defendant, that Hanley had indorsed the bill, and the plaintiffs had a verdict for the £100, but without interest, to which Lord Ellenborough said, they had shewn no right.

¹ Robinson and another v. Garrow, 7 Taunt. 455 — 1 Moore, 150. S. C. Held that the acceptance of a bill of exchange admits merely the drawing, but not the indorsement of the drawer. Therefore if a bill be drawn and indorsed by procuration, it was held in an action by the indorsee against the acceptor, that as the indorsement by procuration was not proved, they were not entitled to recover. This was an action brought by the plaintiffs as indorsee against the defendant, as acceptor of the following bill of exchange:

"London, July 6, 1816.

"Two months after date pay to our order, thirty pounds for value received.

"Per pro CHAS. STACHEN and Co.

"A. HENRY."

"To Mr. John S. Garrow,

"17, Broad-street-buildings, London."

and indorsed on the back,

"Per pro CHAS. Stachen and Co. A. Henry Henry and Co."

The first count of the declaration stated, that A. Henry, using the name, style, and firm, of C. Stachen and Co. drew the bill on the defendant, and that after his acceptance he indorsed it to the plaintiffs. The second count stated, that Henry drew and indorsed the bill in his own name; and the third that the bill was drawn and indorsed by certain persons using the name, style, and firm, of Stachen and Co. who indorsed it, but neither of these counts noticed the procuration. The cause was tried before Mr. Justice Burrough, at the Sittings at Guildhall, after the last Hilary Term, when the plaintiffs adduced evidence to prove that the body of the bill of exchange, as well as the indorsement, was of the hand-writing of Henry, who was previously a partner with Stachen and Co. but that at the time of drawing the bill there was no such firm as Stachen and Co. that such a firm had existed, which was dissolved on the first of January, 1816; and after that time Henry carried on business on his own account. The hand-

3dly. Proof of the plaintiff's interest, &c.

So where the first indorsement was in full, directing the acceptor to pay the bill to a certain person, who has indorsed the same to the plaintiff, he must, in an action against the drawer or acceptor, prove the indorsement of that person³, and all the indorsements stated, though unnecessarily, in the declaration, must be proved³, and, therefore, it is usual, where there are several indorsements, to insert two counts, one stating the several indorsements, and the other describing the plaintiff as the immediate indorsee of the first indorser³.

But if the first indorsement was in blank, it will be unnecessary even in an action against the drawer or acceptor, to prove any of the subsequent indorsements, although they were in full, but they may be struck out at the time of the trial, unless they be unnecessarily stated in the declaration⁴. And a small mistake in the declaration in the name of the indorser, as describ-

writing of the defendant as acceptor, and the due presentment of the bill were also proved, but no evidence was given of the handwriting of the indorsement by Henry. On the production of the bill, it appeared to have been drawn and indorsed by Henry, per procuration of Stachen and Co. The learned Judge thought the plaintiffs ought to prove the procuration, and as they were not prepared with such proof, he accordingly directed a nonsuit. A rule nisi had been obtained, and, on showing cause, Lord Chief Justice Gibbs said, I cannot say whether there has been any private communication between these parties, but can only look to the instrument itself. Stachen and Co. appear to have authorized Henry to draw the bill payable to their order. The defendant by his acceptance admits that such a firm as Stachen and Co. was in existence, and also the bill was drawn by Henry by their procuration. By accepting this bill purporting to be drawn by Henry, as the agent for Stachen and Co. the defendant renders himself answerable to them for its amount. The defendant has by his acceptance admitted, that Henry was authorized to draw the bill by procuration, but he has not admitted thereby that it might be indorsed in this manner; it was not proved that Henry was so empowered. The defendant might say, that he had, by his acceptance, admitted the existence of the firm of Stachen and Co. and that the bill was drawn by Henry as their agent, but he does not thereby admit that the indorsement was on the same terms, and it was, therefore, necessary that such procuration should be proved. Rule discharged.

³ Ante, 175, 6.

⁴ Cooper v. Lindo, B. R. Sittings, London, after Mich. T. 52 Geo. 3. Selw. 4th ed. 356. n. k.—Bosanquet v. Anderson, 6 Esp. Rep. 43. post, 507.—Bedforth and another v. Chambers, 1 Stark. 326, post, 507. and ante, 484.

⁵ Ante, 461.—Chaters v. Bell, 4 Esp. 210.

⁶ Ante, 175.

ing him as Phillip, when the bill and the evidence prove him to be Phillips, will not be material ¹.

3dly. Proof of the plaintiff's interest, &c.

If the bill or note be payable to the order of several persons not in partnership, the hand-writing of each must be proved ², and though it is reported to have been held in one case, that an acceptance after an indorsement by one of the payees, admits the regularity of the indorsement ³; that decision appears to be contrary to former authorities, though, if a bill have several indorsements upon it at the time it is presented for acceptance, and the drawee, when he accepts, expressly promises to pay the bill, it has been decided that the indorsements are admitted ⁴.

¹ *Forman v. Jacob*, 1 Stark. Rep. 47. It appeared that the name of the indorser was Phillip Phillips; and it was objected that this varied from the allegation of an indorsement by Phillip Phillip, the person being different. The bill itself was payable to Phillip Phillips, and the name was so indorsed on the bill. Per Lord Ellenborough, whether the name on the bill be the party's false or true name is immaterial, if it be his name of trade, the only question is as to the identity of the person.

² *Carvick v. Vickery*, Dougl. 653, ante.

³ *Jones and another v. Radford*, K. B. sittings after Hil. Term, 46 Geo. 3.—1 Campb. 83, (but see *Carvick v. Vickery*, Dougl. 630, 653.—*Hankey v. Wilson*, Say. 223, contra,) held, that in an action upon a bill, drawn payable to the order of two persons not partners, indorsed by one in the name of both, and afterwards accepted by the defendant, that the regularity of the indorsement could not be disputed. Action by the indorsee against the acceptor of a bill of exchange, payable to two persons of the names of Hopkins and M'Michell. The bill had been indorsed by Hopkins in the name of himself and M'Michell, and defendant had accepted it with the indorsement upon it. The defence was, that the payees were not partners, and that the bill ought therefore to have been indorsed by both. But Lord Ellenborough held, that the defendant having accepted the bill indorsed by one for himself and the other, could not now dispute the regularity of this indorsement, but see *Carvick v. Vickery*, Dougl. 85.—*Smith v. Chester*, 1 T. R. 654, ante, 499.

⁴ *Sir Joseph Hankey and Company v. Wilson*, Sayer's Rep. 223. Upon a rule to shew cause why a new trial should not be had in an action of assumpsit, it appeared, that the action was brought by the plaintiffs, as indorsees of a bill of exchange; that the defendant had accepted the bill; that there was no actual proof, that the name of one of the indorsers of the bill is of his hand-writing; that the name of that indorser and the names of all the other indorsers were upon the bill at the time of its being accepted; that at the time of his accepting it, the defendant promised to pay the bill, and that upon this evidence, which was left by Ryder, Ch. J. to the jury, a verdict was found for the plaintiffs. The question was, whether upon this evidence, the matter ought to have been left to the jury? It was

Adly. Proof of
the plaintiff's in-
terest, &c.

In an action against the drawer or acceptor of a bill payable to the order of several persons in partnership, it is in general necessary to prove the partnership, and the hand-writing of one of them or of an agent in the name of the firm¹.

Where a bill has been made payable to the order of a fictitious person, it has been decided, that proof, that the party sued, knew of that circumstance at the time he became a party to the bill, or before he transferred the same, will dispense with proof of the hand-writing of the supposed indorser².

Where several persons sue as indorseees of a bill of exchange, if the bill appears indorsed in blank, there is no necessity for their proving that they were in partnership together, or that the bill was indorsed or delivered to them jointly³. But when a bill of exchange is payable or indorsed specially to a firm, it has

holden that it ought. And by the court.—It is in general necessary to give actual proof that the name of every indorser is of his hand-writing; but it is not necessary to do this in every case. In the present case, it was a matter proper for the determination of a jury, *whether the acceptance of the bill when all the indorsers names were upon it, together with the promise to pay, did not amount to an admission that the name of every indorser is of his hand-writing, inasmuch as such an admission would supersede the necessity of actual proof, that the name of any indorser is of his hand-writing.*

¹ Ante, 488, 9.

² Ante, 88, 4, n. 8.

³ Ord and others v. Portal, 3 Campb. 239.—Rordasns and another v. Leach, 1 Stark. 446.—Ord and two others v. Portal, 3 Campb. 239. Action by the plaintiffs as indorseees, against the defendant as acceptor of a bill of exchange, drawn by one Sted, payable to his own order, and indorsed by him in blank. The plaintiffs case being closed without shewing that the plaintiffs were in partnership, or that the bill had been indorsed to them jointly. Garrow, for the defendant, insisted that they ought to be nonsuited. The declaration alleged, that the drawer of the bill indorsed and delivered the bill to the three plaintiffs, and there was no evidence whatsoever in support of this allegation. Per Lord Ellenborough. There is no occasion for any such evidence. The indorsement in blank conveys a joint right of action to as many as agree in suing on the bill. The plaintiffs had a verdict.

Rordasns and another v. Leach, 1 Stark. 446. The two plaintiffs sued as the indorseees of two bills of exchange. The bills had been indorsed in blank, and the only question was, whether it was incumbent on the plaintiffs to prove their joint title to sue on the bill by shewing that they were partners, or by proving a transfer to them jointly. Lord Ellenborough held, that it was not. Verdict for the plaintiffs.

often been ruled, that in an action by the payees or indorsees strict evidence must be given that the firm consists of the persons who sue as plaintiffs on the record¹. And where a bill of exchange was by the direction of the payee indorsed in blank and delivered to A. B. and Co. who were bankers, on the account of the estate of an insolvent which was vested in trustees for the benefit of his creditors, it was held that A. and B. two of the members of the firm and also trustees, cannot, conjointly with a third trustee who is not a member of the firm, maintain an action against the indorser without some evidence of the transfer of the bill to them as trustees by the firm by delivery or otherwise². When it is incumbent on the plaintiffs to

3dly. Proof of the plaintiff's interest, &c.

¹ Note, in *Ord v. Portal*, 3 Campb. 240.

² *Machell and others v. Kinnear*, 1 Stark. 499. This was an action by Machell, Boucher and Birkbeck, as the indorsees of a bill of exchange, against the defendant as the indorser. The bill in question was dated on the 21st of August, 1815, and was drawn by Corbett on Goldie, for the payment of £400 six months after date to his own order, indorsed by Corbett to Kinnear, the defendant, and indorsed by the latter in blank. The principal question was, whether under the circumstances such a right had been transferred to the plaintiffs as entitled them to sue upon the bill. It appeared that Machell and Boucher were two of the partners of which the firm of Langton and Co. consisted. Machell, Boucher and Birkbeck, the three plaintiffs, were the trustees of the estate of Holder, an insolvent, for the benefit of the creditors; Birkbeck not being a member of the firm of Langton and Co. The defendant being indebted to the estate of Holder, transmitted the bill in question to his clerk in Liverpool, with directions to deliver it to Langton and Co. on the account of Holder's estate, and either to indorse it or to give them a letter of guarantee to secure the payment. The clerk accordingly indorsed it in blank and delivered it to Langton and Co. Garrow, A. G. for the defendant, objected that it was not competent to two of the firm of Langton and Co. to associate with themselves a third person who was a stranger, for the purpose of bringing an action on the bill without shewing that the bill had been transferred by Langton and Co. to the plaintiffs, thus associated. Marryat, for the plaintiffs, contended, that since the bill had been indorsed in blank, it was competent to any number of persons to associate together for the purpose of bringing an action. And he cited the case of *Ord and others v. Portal*, 3 Campb. 239, where it was held, that an indorsement in blank conveyed a joint right of action to as many as agreed to sue upon the bill; per Lord Ellenborough, the bill having been indorsed and delivered to Langton and Co. according to Kinnear's direction, Langton and Co. had authority to appropriate it. Since it was paid to them on account of Holder's estate, if they had received the amount it would have been money had and received by them on account of the estate, but the evidence, as it stands, proves the interest in the bill to be in Langton and Co. It

3dly. Proof of the plaintiff's interest, &c.

prove the names of the partners of a firm, the counsel for such plaintiffs may suggest to the witness called to prove the partnership, the names of the component members of the firm¹.

It has been decided, that the admission by an indorser of a promissory note of his hand-writing is sufficient evidence of the indorsement in an action against the maker, because such admission is in derogation of the party's own title to the note, and therefore admissible². And a promise to pay³ or offer to

would be sufficient to prove that Langton and Co. consented to appropriate the bill to the three plaintiffs as trustees. If Langton and Co. had indorsed it to the plaintiffs the right to sue would have been clear, or they might have transferred the right by a delivery of the bill, but without some evidence of this kind, the right to sue still remains in Langton and Co. Had it not been for the evidence of the particular transfer to Langton and Co. an indorsement in blank might have entitled the parties, who bring the action to recover. Plaintiffs nonsuited.

¹ *Acerro and others v. Petroni*, 1 Stark. 100. Assumpsit by the plaintiffs, bankers at Paris, upon an account stated by the defendant. The witness called to prove the partnership of the plaintiffs could not recollect the names of the component members of the firm so as to repeat them without suggestion, but said he might possibly recognise them, if suggested to him. Lord Ellenborough, alluding to a case tried before Lord Mansfield, in which the witness had been allowed to read a written list of names, ruled, that there was no objection to asking the witness whether certain specified persons were members of the firm. The witness recollected the surnames but not the christian names, of those mentioned as members of the firm, and their christian names being specified in the declaration in the count upon the account stated, and the terms of the acknowledgment being generally to Acerro and Co. the plaintiffs were nonsuited. *Sed quære* as to the christian names, which are not in general material. See *Hodenpyl v. De Vingehod* and another, ante, 489.—3 Campb. 29.—2 Marsh. 159.

² *Maddocks v. Hankey*, 2 Esp. Rep. 647. Assumpsit by the indorsee of a promissory note against the maker; the promissory note was drawn by the defendant payable to one Sellier, who indorsed to Rymer, by whom it was indorsed to the plaintiff. The plaintiff proved the hand-writing of the defendant and Rymer, by persons acquainted with them, and the only doubt in the case was as to the hand-writing of Sellier. The evidence to establish that fact was of a person who had gone to Sellier, he then being in prison, and asked him if that was his hand-writing.—To whom he acknowledged that it was. Gibbs, for the defendant, objected to this evidence, insisting, that such an admission of a fact was not evidence against the defendant, as it might be material to ascertain the time when the indorsement had been made. Lord Kenyon said, that he thought it was admissible and sufficient evidence, as it went in derogation of the parties own title to the note, but he offered to reserve the case.—The plaintiff had a verdict; but see ante, 497, n. 4.

³ *Hankey v. Wilson, Sayer*, 223, ante, 503, n. 4.

renew^a made to an indorsee after the bill was due, dispenses with the necessity for proof of the indorse- 3dly. Proof of the plaintiff's interest, &c.

^a *Bosanquet v. Anderson*, 6 Esp. Rep. 43.—*Sedford and another v. Chambers*, 1 Stark. 326.—*Bayl.* 220.—*Bosanquet v. Anderson*, 6 Esp. Rep. 43. In an action by the indorsee of a bill of exchange, where several indorsements have taken place, which are laid in the declaration, though necessary to be proved in general, yet if defendant applies for time to the holder, and offer terms, it is an admission of the holder's title, and a waiver of proof of all the indorsements except the first. Assumpsit by the plaintiff as indorsee of a bill of exchange, drawn by Wilson in his own favor on the defendant who accepted it, and indorsed over by Wilson. The declaration stated several indorsements on the bill. The evidence for the plaintiff was only proof of the hand-writing of the first indorser, and that the defendant, when the bill became due, came to the plaintiffs, who were bankers, and then holders of the bill, and offered another bill in the place of it, he being then unable to take it up. It was contended for the defendant that it was necessary for the plaintiff to prove all the indorsements on the bill stated in the declaration, for that by the averments so made he had bound himself to prove them, though if he had not done so and declared only on the first indorsement, he might have recovered on that only. It was answered by the plaintiff's counsel that it was sufficient for the plaintiff to prove the hand-writing of the first indorser under the circumstances above stated; that of his offering terms to the plaintiff and thereby admitting the bill to be his; and that there was no necessity for proving the hand-writing of all the indorsers though so laid in the declaration, as by such admission and offer he admitted the plaintiff's title to the bill, and thereby waived the necessity of such proof as would be otherwise necessary. Lord Ellenborough said, that the acceptor by his acceptance admitted the hand-writing of his correspondent, the drawer, but if payable to the drawer's own order his hand-writing as such indorser must in every case be proved, as that put the bill into circulation, and though he accepted the bills with many names on it, if they were laid in the declaration they should be proved; but he was of opinion that the offer here made by the acceptor to pay the bill to the plaintiffs, who then held the bill, with all the names on it, was a sufficient admission of the plaintiff's title, which was derived through the several indorsements, and of the defendant's liability so as to supersede the necessity of proof of each person's hand-writing.—Verdict for plaintiff.

Sedford and another v. Chambers, 1 Stark. 326. This was an action by the indorsee of a bill of exchange against the indorser. The bill was drawn by Fish, on Hill and Co., payable four months after date to the order of Fish, and indorsed by Fish to the defendant, by the defendant to Sheckles, by Sheckles to Niblock and Co., and by the latter to the plaintiffs. All the indorsements were stated in the declaration. The plaintiffs proved all the indorsements except that of Sheckles, and in order to supersede the proof of this indorsement they gave in evidence a letter written by the defendant to the plaintiffs, offering to give them a substituted bill to be approved of by any moderate person, but stating that he had not money to take it up with; adding, that he hoped that it was not in the hands of Niblock and Co. At the time this letter was written the bill was in the hands of the solicitor for the plaintiffs, and the indorsements were complete. The Attorney-General for the plaintiffs submitted, that this evidence was sufficient without further proof, and cited the case of *Bosanquet v. Anderson*, 6 Esp. Rep. 43, to shew that an application by a defendant for time

3dly. Proof of the plaintiff's interest, &c.

ment, because it admits the title of the holder. And after a partnership has been established in evidence, the admission of a partner, though not a party to the suit, is evidence as to joint contracts against any other partner, as well after the determination of the partnership as during its continuance¹. But although a bill of exchange has been shewn to the drawer, with the name of the payee indorsed upon it, and he merely objects to paying it, that he had drawn it without consideration, in an action against him by the indorsee this does not dispense with regular proof of the indorsement². The payment of money into court generally, on the whole declaration, amounts to an admission of the indorsement, and dispenses with the necessity for proving it³.

In an action against an *indorser* of a bill or note, the hand-writing of the drawer⁴, and all *prior* indorsers⁵ being admitted by the defendant's indorse-

was an admission of liability. Lord Ellenborough remarking, that the hope expressed by the defendant that the bill was not in the hands of Niblock and Co., who were indorsers subsequent to Sheekles, shewed that he knew the channel through which the plaintiff's title had been derived, was of opinion that the evidence amounted to proof of their title through that channel.—Verdict for the plaintiff.

¹ Wood and others v. Braddick, 1 Taunt. 104.—Phil. Ev. 3d ed. 75, 6.

² Duncan v. Scott, 1 Campb. 101.

³ Gutteridge v. Smith, 2 Hen. Bla. 374.

⁴ Lambert v. Pack, 1 Salk. 127.—1 Lord Raym. 443.—12 Mod. 244.—Holt, 117. S. C.—Free v. Rawlins, 1 Holt, C. N. P. 550.

⁵ Id. ibid.—Critchlow v. Parry, 2 Campb. 182.—Chaters v. Bell, 4 Esp. 210, ante, 461, 2.—Bayl. 220.

Critchlow v. Parry, 2 Campb. 182. Action by the indorsee against the indorser of a bill of exchange. The declaration stated several indorsements prior to that of the defendant, which was immediately to the plaintiff. A question arose whether, upon proof of the defendant's hand-writing it was necessary to prove the hand-writing of any of the prior indorsers. Lord Ellenborough at first doubted whether it was not necessary in this case, as well as in an action against the acceptor, to prove all the indorsements that were mentioned in the declaration, and particularly that of the original payee. Clark, for the plaintiff, contended, that the defendant's indorsement admitted all antecedent indorsements; that even if they were forged, he would be liable; that he was to be considered as the drawer of a new bill of exchange; and that his contract was very different from that of the acceptor, who only undertook to pay to the payee, or his order, and against whom, therefore, a title, through the payee, must be established. Lord Ellenborough was of this opinion, and the plaintiff had a verdict.

ment, they need not be proved. But if a *subsequent* indorsement be stated in the declaration they must be proved, and therefore it is usual when there are indorsers subsequent to the defendant, whom the plaintiff does not wish to discharge, to insert one count, stating all the indorsements, and another describing the plaintiff as immediate indorsee of the defendant ¹.

³ly. Proof of the plaintiff's interest, &c.

In an action at the suit of an executor against the acceptor of a bill, on a promise laid to the testator, the plaintiff must prove that the bill was accepted in the testator's life-time ²; and, as we shall hereafter see; when a bill or note is attempted to be set off against the claim of the assignees of a bankrupt, the party must prove that the note came to his hands before the bankruptcy ³. But if the act of bankruptcy were secret, and the bill or note proposed to be set off, were afterwards received by the party two calendar months before the commission was issued, and without notice of the bankruptcy, he may set them off ⁴.

When the *drawer* of a bill payable to the order of a third person, and *returned to and taken up by him*, sues acceptor, in order to shew that the right of action has become vested in him, he should be prepared to prove such return to him ⁵, and it has been considered, that when a prior indorser, who has been obliged to pay a subsequent indorser, sues the acceptor, he should prove such payment ⁶.

¹ Ante, 461, 2.—*Bosanquet v. Anderson*, 6 Esp. Rep. 43.—*Sedforth v. Chambers*, 1 Stark. 326.—Ante, 507.

² Anonymous, 12 Mod. 447.—*Sarell v. Wine*, 3 East. 409.

³ *Dickson v. Evans*, 6 T. R. 57.—*Moore v. Wright*, 2 Marsh. 209. 6 Taunt. 517. S. C.—*Oughterlony v. Easterby*, 4 Taunt. 888.—See post, Bankruptcy.

⁴ 46 Geo. 3. c. 135. s. 3.

⁵ As to such action, see ante, 440; and *Symonds v. Parminter*, 1 Wils. 185.—4 Bro. P. C. 604.—Ante, 440.

⁶ *Mendez v. Carreroon*, sed quære.

Mendez v. Carreroon, 1 Lord Raym. 742. In case upon a bill of exchange, upon the evidence at the trial before Holt, C. J. at Guildhall, Nov. 23, Mich. 12 W. 3, the case was this: A. drew a bill of exchange upon B. payable to C. at Paris; B. accepted the bill, C. indorsed it, payable to D., D. to E., E. to F., F. to G., G. demanded the bill to be paid by B. and upon non-payment G. protested it within the time, &c. and then G. brought an action against D.

3dly. Proof of the plaintiff's interest, &c.

In an action by an *accommodation acceptor*, against the drawer for money paid, or specially for not indemnifying the plaintiff, should prove that the bill has been in circulation, and the production of the bill from the custody of the acceptor, is not *prima facie* evidence of his having paid it, without proof that it was once in circulation after it had been accepted, nor is payment to be presumed from a receipt indorsed on the bill, unless such receipt is shown to be in the handwriting of a person entitled to demand payment¹. It has, however, been held, that a general receipt on the

and it was well brought, and he recovered; afterwards D. brought an action against B. and though D. produced the bill and the protest, yet because he could not produce a receipt for the money paid by him to G. upon the protest as the custom is among merchants, as several merchants on their oaths affirmed, he was nonsuited. But Holt seemed to be of opinion, that if he had proved payment by him to G. it had been well enough.

¹ *Pfiel v. Vanbatenberg*, 2 Campb. 439. Action for money lent. The plaintiff's case was, that he had accepted and paid several bills of exchange for the defendant's accommodation. The bills were produced by the plaintiff, and proved to have been drawn by the defendant. They were likewise receipted in the usual form of bills paid, but it did not appear by whom the receipts were written. Richardson contended that the simple production of the bills by the acceptor, was *prima facie* evidence of payment. They could not have got into his hands unless he had paid them, and the presumption that an instrument in the possession of the person liable upon it is satisfied, has been invariably acted upon. But the receipts indorsed on these bills put the matter beyond all doubt, as the defendant was guilty of forgery if the bills had not been paid, and the law would not presume that a man had committed a capital offence. Lord Ellenborough. Shew that the bills were once in circulation after being accepted, and I will presume that they got back to the acceptor's hands by his having paid them. But when he merely produces them, how do I know that they were ever in the hands of the payee, or any indorsee, with his name upon them as acceptors? it is very possible, that when they were left for acceptance, he refused to deliver them back, and having detained them, now produces them as evidence of a loan of money. Nor do I think the receipts carry the matter a bit further, unless you show them to be in the hand-writing of the defendant, or some other person authorised to receive payment of the bills. A man cannot be allowed to manufacture evidence for himself at the risk of being convicted of forgery; and it is possible, that though the bills are unsatisfied, these receipts may have been fraudulently indorsed without the plaintiff's privity. The fact of payment still hangs in doubt, and you must do something more to turn the balance. Prove the bills out of the plaintiff's possession accepted, and I will presume that they got back again by payment. If you do not, the plaintiff must be called. However, a witness afterwards swore that the defendant had acknowledged the debt, and the plaintiff had a verdict.

back of a bill is *prima facie* evidence of its having been paid by the acceptor, and will not of itself be evidence of a payment by the drawer, though it is produced by him ^{3dly. Proof of the plaintiff's interest, &c.}.

We have seen, that in some cases, the plaintiff will be called upon to prove the consideration, which he gave for the bill or note ^{Consideration.}. In an action by the indorsee of a bill of exchange, if it appear that a prior party made it under duress, or was defrauded of it, and the plaintiff has previous notice to do so, he must be prepared to prove under what circumstances, and for what value he became the holder ¹.

But the defendant will not be allowed to call on the plaintiff to prove the consideration which he gave for the bill, unless he has given him reasonable notice that he will be required to offer such proof, so that the plaintiff may come to the trial prepared to establish his consideration ². And the merely giving a notice that the plaintiff will be required to prove what consideration he gave, is not sufficient to throw the

¹ *Sebley v. Walsby, Peake, 24, 5.*

² *Ante, 89. n. 2. 90, &c.*

³ *Duncan v. Scott, 1 Campb. 100. ante, 89, n. 2.—Pattison v. Hardacre, 4 Taunt. 114. ante, 89, n. 2.—Rees v. Marquis of Headfort, 2 Campb. 574.*

Rees v. Marquis of Headfort, 2 Campb. 574. This was an action against the defendant as acceptor of a bill of exchange, drawn by one Whitton, payable to his own order, indorsed by him to Chamberlaine and Co. and by them to the plaintiff. The plaintiff made out a *prima facie* case; but Whitten, the drawer, having been called to prove the hand-writing of the parties, it appeared from his cross examination, that he himself had never received any consideration for the bill, and had been tricked out of it by means of a gross fraud. Lord Ellenborough held, that on this ground the plaintiff was bound to prove what consideration he gave for it; and as he was not prepared to do so, his Lordship directed a nonsuit.

⁴ *Paterson v. Hardacre, 4 Taunt. 114. ante, 89. n. 2.* Mansfield, C. J. declared the decision of the court to be, that wherever a defendant meant to avail himself, as a defence against an action brought upon a bill of exchange, of the circumstances that the bill had been lost, or fraudulently obtained, and that the plaintiff had no right to the possession thereof, it was necessary that the defendant should distinctly give notice to the plaintiff, that he meant to insist, at the trial, that the plaintiff should prove the consideration upon which he received the bill; and no such notice having been given in this case, the rule must be discharged.

Consideration.

burden upon him; some suspicion must first be cast upon his title, by shewing that the bill was obtained from the defendant, or some previous holder, by undue means, after which, and not till then, the plaintiff will be required to prove how he became the holder'. And though it has been decided, that when the plaintiff has in due time received a notice from the defendant to prove the consideration, he ought to do so in opening his case to the jury; and that after his counsel have closed his case, he shall not be permitted to go into evidence of consideration, in reply to the defendant's case¹; yet a different practice now prevails, and the plaintiff is allowed, after the defendant has proved that he received no value, and has cast a suspicion on the plaintiff's case, to go into full proof of the circumstances, under which he holds the bill². If, however, the defendant can make out a strong case of fraud or want of consideration against the plaintiff, sufficient to establish a defence, it does not then seem necessary to give the plaintiff any notice to prove the consideration.

¹ Reynolds v. Chettle, 2 Campb. 596. The defendant had given the plaintiff notice to prove what consideration he gave for the bill, which it was submitted he was bound to prove accordingly. Lord Ellenborough. The notice is insufficient to throw this burthen on the plaintiff, you must first cast some suspicion upon his title, by shewing that the bill was obtained from the defendant, or some previous holder, by force or by fraud. The plaintiff had a verdict.

² Per Id. Ellenborough, Delanney v. Mitchel, 1 Stark. 439. This was an action by the plaintiff as the indorsee of a bill of exchange, against the defendant as acceptor. Scarlett, for the plaintiff, having adduced the usual documentary proofs, was inclined to rest his case there, intimating, that if in the course of the cause, it should become necessary, he was prepared to prove the consideration given for the bill. The Attorney-General insisted, that since notice had been given, that one ground of defence was the want of consideration, it would not be competent to the plaintiff, after having closed his case, to go subsequently into such evidence. Lord Ellenborough held, that after such notice he could not.

Humbert v. Ruding, K. B. Westminster, 13th July, 1817, action on a bill of exchange. The defendant had given notice to the plaintiff to prove consideration of the bill, and Lord Ellenborough said, I think, as this is the case, you must go into proof of the consideration in the first instance. Mr. Jervis for the plaintiff.

³ Mr. Justice Abbot has at Ni. Pri. declared that this is the correct course.

We have already stated, when the want of consideration or the illegality of it will affect the plaintiff's right of action¹. By a recent statute it is declared, that usury in the consideration shall not affect a bonâ fide holder, who became so after the 10th day of June, 1818.² In the case of a bank note, unless there be a strong presumption of fraud or want of consideration the plaintiff's interest in the security cannot be disturbed³.

4thly. In an action against the acceptor upon a general acceptance to pay the bill according to its tenor, and in an action against the maker of a promissory note, it is not necessary to prove *a presentment for payment*, because such presentment, we have seen, is not essential to the action⁴. So in the Court of King's Bench, where a bill is drawn, payable generally as to place, but has been accepted payable at a banker's or other particular place, it is not the prac-

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¹ Ante, 88 to 115.

² 58 Geo. 3. c. 93.

³ *Solomon v. Bank of England*, 13 East. 135.—Ante, 192.—*King v. Milson*, 2 Campb. 5.

King v. Milson, 2 Campb. 5. Possession is *primâ facie* evidence of property in negotiable instruments. Therefore, in trover for a bank note, it is not a *primâ facie* case for the plaintiff to prove that the note belonged to him, and that the defendant afterwards converted it, and the defendant will not be called upon to shew his title to the note, without evidence from the other side, that he got possession of it *malâ fide* or without consideration.—Trover for a £50 Bank of England note. The plaintiff's case was, that he had lost the note from his pocket in the street, and that the defendant, into whose possession it soon afterwards came, was not the bonâ fide holder of it for a valuable consideration.—Lord Ellenborough. "There is a distinction between negotiable instruments and common chattels; with respect to the former, possession is *primâ facie* evidence of property. I must presume that the defendant, when possessed of this note, was a bonâ fide holder for a valuable consideration. It lies upon you to impeach his title. You might have thrown so much suspicion upon his conduct in the transaction, as to have rendered it necessary for him to prove from whom he received the note, and what consideration he gave for it. But I think you have not done so. The suspicious circumstances detailed by the witnesses may be accounted for from the defendant's ignorance. It would greatly impair the credit, and impede the circulation of negotiable instruments, if persons holding them could, without strong evidence of fraud, be compelled by any prior holder to disclose the manner in which they received them."—Plaintiff nonsuited.

⁴ Ante, 320, 1.

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tice in an action against the acceptor to go into proof of a presentment at such place, unless such presentment has been unnecessarily averred¹. But as in the Court of Common Pleas a different doctrine has been entertained by some of the judges, it is advisable for the plaintiff to be prepared to prove that fact². When in the body of a bill or in the address at the foot, or in the body of a note, it has been made payable at a particular place, the contract is considered as qualified, and a presentment there must be averred and proved in an action against the acceptor of the bill or maker of the note³. In short, whenever a particular presentment is essential to the support of the action, or when it has been averred, it must be proved⁴. In case of a *conditional* acceptance, it is necessary to allege, as well as prove, that the terms of the condition have been performed⁵.

In an action against the drawer or indorser of a bill, or the indorser of a note, as his contract is only to pay in case the party primarily liable does not, the default of such party must be proved, or some evidence must be adduced to dispense with the necessity for such proof. Thus in an action against the drawer or indorser of a bill, or the indorser of a note, it is necessary to prove a *presentment* to the drawee for payment⁶. But it is not necessary in an action against

¹ Ante, 327. n. 1.

² Ante, 329. n. 1.

³ Ante, 322, 3.

⁴ As to the cases when a presentment is necessary, ante, 320 to 332.

⁵ *Langston v. Corney*, 4 Campb. 176.—*Anderson v. Hick*, 3 Campb. 179. and see *Wynne v. Raikes*, 5 East. 514. 2 Smith, 98. S. C.

⁶ *Pardo v. Fuller*, 2 Comyns, 579.—*Heylyn v. Adamson*, 2 Burr. 676.

Pardo v. Fuller, 2 Comyns, 579. This was an action on a promissory note against the indorser. At the trial before Chief Justice Willes, at Guildhall, it was doubted whether the plaintiff ought not to prove a demand upon the drawer; before the action was brought, the matter of proof was left to the jury, whether a demand was made or not. On a motion for a new trial, Judge Fortescue mentioned the case of *Davies and Mason*, 1 Geo. 2. in the court of Common Pleas, wherein it was agreed by the court, that there ought to be a demand upon the drawer, for the indorser undertook conditionally only, if the drawer

the indorser of a bill, to prove any presentment to, or demand upon the drawer, because the indorser by the act of indorsement, engages, that the bill shall be paid, which contract being broken by the dishonour of the bill, the holder is intitled to sue without reference to the drawer's breach of contract*. When the action is

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did not pay. Indeed, if a note be forged, Chief Justice Holt held the indorser liable though no demand, and indeed no demand can be, for when a note is forged, there is no drawer. So on a note payable to a man or bearer, no demand need be from him to whom it is made payable. But a new trial was denied, for the evidence of the demand was left to the jury who were proper judges of that fact, and knew best the course of dealing.

* *Heylyn v. Adamson*, 2 Burr. 669. 675.—*Bromley v. Frasier*, 1 Stra. 441.

It was determined in the case of *Heylyn v. Adamson*, 2 Burr. 669, which examines and reconciles the authorities upon the subject, that to entitle the indorsee of an inland bill of exchange, to bring an action against the indorser upon failure of payment by the drawee it is not necessary to make any demand of or enquiry after the first drawer. This point had been laid down differently in different books, owing to the drawer of a bill of exchange being confounded with the maker of a promissory note. Vide 1 *Ld. Raym.* 443.—*R. T. Hardw. p.* 322.—2 Burr. 677. The distinction subsisting between them is thus clearly and satisfactorily laid down by Lord Mansfield, 2 Burr. 675, by whom the law upon the subject now seems to be settled. “As to foreign bills of exchange, the question was solemnly determined by this court, upon very satisfactory grounds in the case of *Bromley v. Frasier*, 1 Stra. 441. That was an action upon the case upon a *foreign* bill of exchange by the indorsee against the indorser, and on general demurrer it was objected that they had not shown a demand upon the drawer, in whose default only it is that the indorser warrants.” And because this was a point unsettled, and on which there are contradictory opinions in *Salk.* 131. & 133, the court took time to consider of it. And on the second argument, they delivered their opinions, that the declaration was well enough for the design of the law of merchants in distinguishing these from all other contracts by making them assignable, was for the convenience of commerce, that they might pass from hand to hand in the way of trade in the same manner as if they were specie. Now to require a demand upon the drawer will be laying such a clog upon these bills as will deter every body from taking them. The drawer lives abroad, perhaps in the Indies, where the indorsee has no correspondent to whom he can send the bill for a demand, or if he could, yet the delay would be so great, that nobody would meddle with them. Suppose it was the case of several indorsements, must the last indorsee travel round the world before he can fix his action upon the man from whom he received the bill. In common experience every body knows that the more indorsements a bill has, the greater credit it bears, whereas, if those demands are all necessary to be made, it must naturally diminish the value; by how much the more difficult it renders the calling in the money. And as to the notion that has prevailed, that the indorser warrants only in default of the drawer, there is no colour for it, for every indorser is in the nature

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for default by the drawee to accept, a due presentment, and a refusal must also be proved¹; and when it was essential from the circumstance of the bill being pay-

of a new drawer, and at nisi prius the indorsee is never put to prove the hand of the first drawer, where the action is against an indorser. The requiring a protest for non-acceptance is not because a protest amounts to a demand, for it is no more than giving a notice to the drawer to get his effects out of the hands of the drawee, who by the others drawing, is supposed to have sufficient wherewith to satisfy the bill. Upon the whole they declared themselves to be of opinion, that in the case of a *foreign* bill of exchange, a demand upon the drawer is not necessary to make a charge upon the indorser, but the indorsee has the liberty to resort to either for the money, consequently the plaintiff (they said) must have judgment. Every inconvenience here suggested, holds to a great degree, and every other argument holds equally in the case of *inland* bills of exchange. We are therefore all of opinion, that to intitle the indorsee of an inland bill of exchange to bring an action against the indorser upon failure of payment of the drawee, it is not necessary to make any demand of or inquiry after the first drawer. The law is exactly the same, and fully settled upon the analogy of *promissory notes* to bills of exchange, which is very clear, when the point of resemblance is once fixed. While a promissory note continues in its original shape of a promise, from one man to pay to another, it bears no similitude to a bill of exchange. When it is indorsed, the resemblance begins, for then it is an order by the indorser upon the maker of the note (his debtor by the note) to pay to the indorsee. This is the very definition of a bill of exchange. The indorser is the drawer, the maker of the note is the acceptor, and the indorsee is the person to whom it is made payable. The indorser only undertakes, in case the maker of the note does not pay. The indorsee is bound to apply to the maker of the note, he takes it upon that condition, and therefore must in all cases know who he is, and where he lives, and if after the note becomes payable, he is guilty of a neglect, and the maker becomes insolvent he loses the money, and he cannot come upon the indorser at all. Therefore, before the indorsee of a promissory note brings an action against the indorser, he must shew a demand or due diligence to get the money from the maker of the note, just as the person to whom the bill of exchange is made payable, must shew a demand or due diligence to get the money from the acceptor, before he brings an action against the drawer. This was determined by the whole court of Common Pleas, upon great consideration in Pasch. 4 Geo. 2. as cited by my Lord Ch. J. Lee, in the case of *Collins v. Butler*, 2 Stra. 1087. So that the rule is exactly the same upon promissory notes as it is upon bills of exchange, and the confusion has in part arisen from the maker of a promissory note being called the drawer, whereas by comparison to bills of exchange, the indorser is the drawer. All the authorities, and particularly Lord Hardwicke, in the case of *Hamerton v. Macquerel*, Mich. 10 Geo. 2. according to my brother Denison's state of what his Lordship said, put promissory notes and inland bills of exchange just upon the same footing, and the statute expressly refers to inland bills of exchange. But the same law must be applied to the same reason to the substantial resemblance between promissory notes and bills of exchange, and not to the same sound which is equally used to describe the makers of both."

¹ Ante, 206, &c.

able at a banker's, that a presentment should be made there, such presentment must, in an action against the drawer or indorser of the bill be proved to have been made in due time, and proof of a presentment by a notary in the evening, when no person was at the banking-house to give a proper answer, will not suffice¹; though if it appear that upon such presentment in the evening, there was some person at the bankers' who in pursuance of authority gave an answer to the holder, such evidence would suffice².

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In an action against the drawer or indorser of a *foreign* bill, (and in an action on an inland bill when a protest is averred³) it is necessary to prove a *protest* for non-acceptance⁴ or non-payment⁵, the requisites and points relating to which have already been considered. So in the case of an inland bill, no interest or damages can be recovered from a drawer or indorser without proof of a protest⁶. A protest apparently under the seal of a notary-public, and made abroad, need only be produced, and proves itself without shewing by whom it was made⁷. But a protest made in England, must be proved by the notary who made it, and by the subscribing witness, if any⁸.

¹ Ante, 331, 2. 353, 4.—Parker v. Gordon, 7 East. 385.—Ante, 354, n. 2.

² Garnell v. Woodcock, 1 Stark. 475, ante, 354.

³ Boulager v. Talleyrand, 2 Esp. Rep. 550.—Selw. 4th ed. 358, ante, 465.

⁴ Ante, 278.

⁵ Ante, 395.

⁶ Ante, 282, 398.—Lumley v. Palmer, Rep. Temp. Hardw. 77.

⁷ Anonymous, 12 Mod. 345.—2 Rol. Rep. 346.—10 Mod. 66.—Peake L. of E. 4th ed. 80. in notes.—Bayl. 226.

⁸ Chesmer v. Noyes, 4 Campb. 129. This was an action on a foreign bill of exchange drawn at St. Croix, upon a person at Bristol. In the course of the trial it became material to shew that the bill had been presented to him for payment. For this purpose the plaintiff's counsel offered as evidence a notarial protest under seal, stating the fact of the presentment in the usual form, and contended that by the usage of merchants, a protest under a notary's seal, is evidence of the dishonour of foreign bills of exchange. Lord Ellenborough. The protest may be sufficient to prove a presentment which took place in a foreign country, but I am quite clear that the presentment of a foreign bill in England must be proved in the same manner as if it were an inland bill or a promissory note. The plaintiff had a verdict upon other evidence.

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In an action against the drawer or indorser of a bill, or maker of a note, it is in general necessary to prove that due *notice of the dishonour* was given to the defendant. The requisites and time within which notice of non-acceptance¹ or non-payment² must be given, have already been considered. This, we have seen, cannot be left to inference without positive proof, and therefore a witness swearing that he gave notice in two or three days after the dishonour, when three days would be too late, will not be sufficient proof³.

We have already considered what notice of non-acceptance⁴ and non-payment⁵ is sufficient. If the notice was given by letter or in writing, it has been decided that evidence of the contents of such notice cannot be given without first proving the service of a notice to the defendant to produce such letter or writing, and it is still advisable to serve such notice to produce⁶. But in some recent cases it has since

¹ Ante, 256 to 309.

² Ante, 393 to 408.

³ *Lawson v. Sherwood*, 1 Stark. 314.—Ante, 410, n. 3.—*Elford v. Teed*, 1 M. & S. 28.

⁴ Ante, 278 to 297.

⁵ Ante, 323 to 408.

⁶ *Shaw v. Markham*, Peake's Rep. 165.—*Langdon v. Hulls*, 5 Esp. Rep. 156.—Peake's L. of E. 4th ed. 116.—Phil. Ev. 3d ed. 395.

Shaw v. Markham, Peake, 165. Assumpsit against the defendant as indorser of two promissory notes drawn by Thomas Thomas. A witness of the name of Osborne swore, that when Thomas dishonoured the note he wrote three letters to the defendant to inform him of it, and sent one to his living at Chester, another to his living at Yorkshire, and a third to the bookseller's where he usually lodged when in London. No notice had been given the defendant to produce these letters, nor any copy kept. Erskine, for the defendant, objected to the evidence, contending, that no notice having been given to produce these letters the plaintiff could not give parol evidence of their contents. Bower, for the plaintiff, answered, that the letters themselves were nothing more than a notice, and that it was an established rule that no notice need be given to produce a notice. Lord Kenyon said this objection could not be got over, and no evidence of the contents of the letter could be received without a notice to produce it. Call it a notice, or by any other name, it was still a letter, and must be proved as any other written paper.

Langdon v. Hulls, 5 Esp. Rep. 156. Assumpsit on a bill of exchange drawn by the defendant in his own favour on one Pugh for £50, two months after date, accepted by Pugh, and indorsed by the defendant to the plaintiff. The plaintiff having proved the acceptance and hand-writing of the defendant to the indorsement, then proved

been determined that secondary evidence may be given of a written notice of the dishonour of a bill, without notice to produce such writing¹. So a copy of a letter containing notice of the dishonour of a bill is admissible, without notice to produce the original, and proof that duplicate notices of the dishonour of a bill were written, and that a letter was delivered to the defendant upon the dishonour of a bill, together with proof of notice to produce the letter so delivered, as containing notice of dishonour, is evidence

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that the bill when due was presented for payment at Pugh's house, and that it was not then paid. To prove the notice to the defendant as the drawer of the non-payment by the acceptor, the plaintiff proved, by the notary's clerk who presented the bill, that he had left word at the defendant's house that the bill had not been paid, the plaintiff also proved that his attorney, by his directions, had written a letter to the defendant informing him of the non-payment of the bill by Pugh. It becoming necessary to prove this notice so given by the plaintiff's attorney by letter to the defendant, the attorney was called. No notice had been given to produce this letter, but he having stated that he had written such a letter, was proceeding to state the notice of the non-payment as mentioned in the letter, of which letter he had a copy, when it was objected that evidence of the contents of the letter could not be given as no notice had been given to produce it. It was answered, that the letter itself was a notice, and that it had been so decided that notice to produce a notice was not necessary, and the case of *Jory v. Orchard*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 39, was cited, as in point. It was contended by the defendant, that notice of the non-payment of the bill had not been given in due time, and that the letter had not been written until several days after the time for regular notice had expired, and it therefore became important to ascertain the exact time when it was written. Lord Ellenborough said, that notice of the dishonour of a bill of exchange by letter was certainly good evidence, and had been so decided, but that there were other circumstances besides the mere fact of notice, which were necessary to give effect to it, so as to entitle the plaintiff to recover. These were the date and the time when it was sent, which were material, for notice of the dishonour was not sufficient unless given in the time required in the case of bills of exchange. To ascertain the date the post mark might be material, he was therefore of opinion that the plaintiff could not give evidence of the contents of the letter not having given notice to produce it, and that upon that evidence the plaintiff could not recover. The plaintiff then proved a subsequent admission by the defendant that he had had notice, and had a verdict.

¹ *Ackland v. Pearce*, 2 Campb. 601.—Phil. Ev. 3d ed. 695.

Ackland v. Pearce, 2 Campb. 601. Action against drawer of a bill. The witness called to prove notice of the dishonour of the bill said, that on the day it became due he left a written notice of its having been dishonoured at the defendant's house. Le Blanc, J. after argument, ruled, that the secondary evidence of the contents of this notice might be given without a notice to produce it, and compared it to a notice to quit.

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on default of production, that the defendant had notice¹; and proof of a letter from the defendant, in which he acknowledged the receipt of a letter from the holder of a named date, (being the proper time for giving notice) but without referring to its contents, would afford presumptive evidence of the receipt by the party of a regular notice².

In general on proof of notice of the dishonour of a bill or note having been given, it will suffice to

¹ Roberts v. Bradshaw, 1 Stark. 28. — Hetherington v. Kemp, 4 Campb. 194.

Roberts v. Bradshaw, 1 Stark. 28. Action on a bill of exchange by the indorsee against the drawer. In order to prove notice of the dishonour the counsel for the plaintiff called a clerk of the plaintiff's, who stated, that on the 2d of February, the day on which the bill had been dishonoured, his master gave him two papers to compare with each other, one of which the witness now produced, and purported to be a notice of the dishonour of the bill in question. Topping, for the defendant, objected, that this could not be read without proof of notice to produce that which had been so delivered, but Lord Ellenborough, C. J. was of opinion, that a letter acquainting a party with the dishonour of a bill, was in the nature of a notice, and that it was unnecessary to prove a notice to produce such a letter. Upon further examination the witness stated, that upon the day after he had compared the two papers he carried a letter from the plaintiff to the defendant, but did not know the contents. Lord Ellenborough was of opinion that this was not sufficient evidence. The plaintiff then proved the service of a notice on the defendant, calling upon him to produce a letter from the plaintiff, giving him notice of the dishonour of the bill mentioned in the declaration. The Attorney-general contended that this was sufficient evidence to go to a jury, that the original had been sent, and that it lay upon the defendant to shew, by producing it, that the letter proved to have been delivered on the 3d of February was nothing more than an invitation to dinner, or something else equally unconnected with the dishonour of the bill in question. Topping, no answer has been given to the objection, a notice is of no avail to warrant the reading of a copy, unless the party be proved to have been in possession of the original; on the contrary, the notice itself assumes the fact of possession. Lord Ellenborough, C. J. I think, certainly, that there is a looseness in this evidence, and you may afterwards move the court upon it. Supposing, however, that the paper delivered had been a perfect blank, or contained matter wholly unconnected with the dishonour of the bill, you might have produced it, and shewn the fact to be so, since it is evident what letter was the object of the plaintiff's notice. This is the first time the identity of such a letter has been so minutely scrutinized, and the proof might, in many instances, be attended with great difficulty, as where letters, after being written, are placed upon the table, it might afterwards be exceedingly difficult to identify them with those afterwards put into the post-office. Verdict for the plaintiff. In the ensuing term the court refused a rule nisi for a new trial.

² Hetherington v. Kemp, 4 Campb. 194,

shew, that a letter, containing information of the fact, and properly directed, was put in the proper post-officé¹, or left at the defendant's house². In civil cases the post-mark upon the letter seems to be evidence of the time and place when it was put into the post-office³.

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Proof of having sent a notice or other paper by the post, has generally been considered in mercantile transactions to be sufficient proof of notice to the party to whom it was directed, and this on a principle of general convenience. A question has sometimes arisen as to the requisite proof of the fact of sending by the post. In one case⁴, where it became necessary to prove that a license to trade had been sent by the plaintiff to A. B., it was proved to be the invariable course of the plaintiff's office, that the clerk, who copys a license, sends it off by the post, and writes on the copy a memorandum of his having done so; a copy of the licence in question was produced from the plaintiff's letter-book, in the handwriting of a deceased clerk, who had written a memorandum, stating, that the original had been sent to A. B.; and a witness, acquainted with the plaintiff's mode of transacting business, swore, that he had no doubt that the original had been sent according to the statement in the memorandum; this evidence was held to be sufficient. In another case relating to a bill⁵, where the question was, whether the defendant had received notice of the dishonour of a bill of exchange, it was proved that on the day after the bill became due, the plaintiff wrote a letter, addressed to the defendant, stating, that it had been dishonoured; but this letter was put down on a table, where, according

¹ Sanderson v. Judge, 2 Hen. Bla. 509.—Ante, 286, notes.—Scott v. Lifford, 9 East. 347. Ante, 287.—Bayl. 226.

² Stedman v. Gooch, 1 Esp. Rep. 5.—Jones v. Marsh, 4 T. R. 465.

³ Archangel v. Thompson, 2 Campb. 623.

⁴ Hagendon v. Reed, 2 Campb. 379.

⁵ Hetherington v. Kemp, 4 Campb. 193.—Phil. on Evid. 3d ed. 390.

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to the usage of his counting-house, letters for post were always deposited, and that a porter carries them from thence to the post-office; but the porter was not called, and there was no evidence as to what had become of the letter after it was put down upon the table. A notice to produce the letter had been served upon the defendant. It was contended for the plaintiff, that this was good *prima facie* evidence that the letter had been sent by the post. Lord Ellenborough held, that some evidence ought to be given that the letter had been taken from the table in the counting-house, and put in the post-office. If the porter had been called, and if he had said, that although he had no recollection of this particular letter, he invariably carried to the post-office all the letters found upon the table, this might have been sufficient; but it was not sufficient to give such general evidence of the course of business in the plaintiff's counting-house.

The plaintiff, however, may prove facts to excuse his neglect to make a due presentment or a protest in the case of a foreign bill, or to give notice of non-acceptance or non-payment, as that the defendant when drawer had no effects in the hands of the drawee, from the time it was drawn until it became due¹.

So proof of a payment of part, or a *promise to pay* after full notice of the laches of the holder, we have seen, dispenses with the necessity for proof in an action against the drawee of a due presentment, protest, and notice, and has been considered as admitting all these facts, as well the right of the holder to sue²; and the same evidence suffices in an action against an indorser³; though it has recently been considered,

¹ Ante, 258 to 278.

² Ante, 301 to 309. where the cases establishing and qualifying this rule are collected; and see *Greenway v. Hindley*, 4 Campb. 52.—*Lundie v. Robertson*, 7 East. 231.—*Potter v. Rayworth*, 13 East. 417.

³ *Taylor v. Jones*, 2 Campb. 105.

Taylor v. Jones, 2 Campb. 105. Action against the defendant as indorser of a promissory note, due May 5th, 1805. The plaintiff proved the defendant's indorsement; and also that in the year 1807 the defendant being requested to pay the note, he promised that he

that admitting a *drawer* of a bill may, by circumstances *impliedly* waive his right of defence founded on the laches of the holder, yet it must be proved, that an *indorser* has *expressly* waived it¹. And in these cases it is to be left to the jury to say whether, under the circumstances, the defendant had notice at the time of his promise or application, that there had been no due presentment, or that the holder had otherwise been guilty of negligence².

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In an action by the drawer against the acceptor of a bill, payable to the order of a third person, and which the drawer has been obliged to pay, it is necessary, in support of the count, stating the return of the bill, to prove the acceptance, the demand of payment, and refusal or neglect to pay, and the return of the bill to the plaintiff, and the payment by him if averred, but it is not necessary to prove that the acceptor had effects in hand, that fact being *prima facie* admitted by the acceptance³.

When the acceptor of an accommodation bill sues the drawer specially, and which he cannot do on the bill, he must prove the hand-writing of the defendant as drawer, and the payment by himself, or some spe-

would, but prayed for further time. There was no evidence of the presentment of the note to the maker, or of any notice of its non-payment being given to the defendant; nor did it appear that when the defendant so promised to pay, he knew whether any application for payment had been made to the maker. Gaselee, for the defendant, contended, that the subsequent promise did not dispense with proof of the presentment and notice, unless made with full knowledge of the laches of the holder. In the cases hitherto decided upon this subject, something appeared that might be considered a waiver of any irregularity with regard to the bill or note, which could not be inferred from a mere promise to pay, made at a time when the party, without being aware of it, was discharged from his liability. But Bayley, J. held, that where a party to a bill or note, knowing of it to be due, and knowing that he was entitled to have it presented when due to the acceptor or maker, and to receive notice of its dishonour, promises to pay it, this is presumptive evidence of the presentment and notice, and he is bound by the promise so made. Verdict for plaintiff.

¹ Borradaile v. Lowe, 4 Taunt. 93. Ante, 308.

² Hopley v. Dufresne, 13 East. 275.—Horford v. Wilson, 1 Taunt. 15.—Bayl. 220.

³ Vere v. Lewis, 3 T. R. 183.—Simmonds v. Parminter, 1 Wils. 185.—Ante, 520.

4thly. Evidence of the breach of contract, and other circumstances to sustain the action.

cial damage, as imprisonment in execution¹, and which in the latter case will not suffice, unless there is a special count in the declaration for not indemnifying². And as the presumption of law is, that the acceptor had consideration for his acceptance, it will be incumbent on him to prove the contrary³. *Primâ facie*, a general receipt on the back of a bill, imports a payment by the acceptor⁴. But the production of the bill from the custody of the acceptor will not afford for him *primâ facie* evidence of his having paid it, without proof that it was once in circulation after it had been accepted; nor is payment to be presumed from a receipt indorsed on the bill, unless it be shewn to be in the hand-writing of a person entitled to demand payment⁵. So in an action by bankers to recover the amount of a bill of exchange accepted by the defendant, payable at their house, and paid by them after it was indorsed, they are bound to prove the indorsement by the payee and the defendant's acceptance, and their payment⁶.

Evidence for the defendant.

WITH respect to the evidence on the part of the *defendant*, it must necessarily depend on the circumstances of each case.

If the defendant would wish to establish that the *stamp* is insufficient, he should be prepared to produce and point to the particular provision of a printed copy of the stamp act on which he relies; and if the objection be, that a bill, purporting to have been made abroad, was made in England, and therefore required a stamp, it will not suffice merely to prove that the drawer was in England at the time the bill bears date,

¹ *Chilton v. Wiffen*, 3 Wils. 12, 13.

² *Taylor v. Higgins*, 3 East. 169.

³ *Vere v. Lewis*, 3 T. R. 183.

⁴ *Scholey v. Walsby*, Peake. Rep. 25.

⁵ *Pfiel v. Van Battenberg*, 2 Campb. 439.—*Ante*, 388.

⁶ *Foster v. Clements*, 2 Campb. 17.

but the fact must be established by more positive evidence¹. Evidence for the defendant.

If the defendant relies on the illegality or insufficiency of the *consideration*, he should, in due time before the trial, serve a notice upon the plaintiff's attorney, to prove the consideration he gave for the bill, and the time when, and person from whom he received the same², and he should prove the due service of such notice, for without such notice we have seen the defendant cannot call on the plaintiff to enter into those circumstances³. The defendant should also be prepared with evidence to prove the circumstances under which the bill was drawn or negociated⁴. If goods were delivered in part of discount, and accepted voluntarily, then the defendant must, in order to make out a case of usury, prove the excess in the charges⁵. But if the defendant prove that goods were forced upon him or another party, then the plaintiff may be called on to prove that they were fairly charged⁶. If the usury was committed in discounting another bill besides that on which the action is brought, in one undivided transaction, no parol evidence is admissible as to the contents of the other bill, unless notice has been given to produce it, and which notice should be proved⁷.

In an action at the suit of an indorsee against the maker of a promissory note where the defence was usury in its creation, it was held, that letters from the payee to the maker, stating the consideration as between them, if shewn to have been cotemporaneous with the making of the note, were admissible evidence to prove the usury, without calling the payee him-

¹ *Abraham v. Du Bois*, 4 Campb. 269.

² See form of notice, post, Appendix.

³ Ante, 521, 2.

⁴ As to the consideration, see ante, 88 to 115, and index, title Consideration.

⁵ *Coomb v. Miles*, 2 Campb. 553.—*Rich v. Topping*, 1 Esp. R. 176. Ante, 113, 4.

⁶ *Davies v. Hardacre*, 2 Campb. 374. Ante, 113.

⁷ *Hallam v. Withers*, 1 Esp. R. 259.

Evidence for the
defendant.

self¹; but in general the letters of an indorser, or at least those written after he has parted with the bill, are not admissible in evidence to impeach the indorsee's title². In an action against the acceptor of a bill given for the price of a horse warranted sound, the breach of warranty, if the horse were returned forthwith, will afford a complete defence³. But it has been recently held, that if the consideration has only partially failed, and the exact amount to be deducted is unliquidated, the defendant cannot go into evidence in reduction of damages, but is driven to his cross action⁴; and a party who has given his promissory note as the sti-

¹ Kent v. Lowen, 1 Campb. 177. 180. d. S. P. in Walsh v. Stockdale, cur. Abbott, J. Sittings at Guildhall, post, Trin. Term, 1818.

Kent v. Lowen, 1 Campb. 177. and 180. d. Assumpsit against the defendant as maker of a promissory note for £153. 15s. dated 9th August, 1806, at ninety days after date, payable to Messrs. Coates and Co. indorsed by them to J. Watson, and indorsed by him to the plaintiff. The making of the note, and the several indorsements being proved, the Attorney-general opened, as a defence to the action, that the note had been given under an usurious agreement between the defendant and Coates and Co. To prove this he offered in evidence certain letters from Coates and Co. to the defendant, wherein they proposed to accommodate him with their acceptance at three months, upon receiving his note for the same sum at ninety days, together with two and a-half per cent. commission. Park objected to the admissibility of this evidence. He allowed, that in an action against the acceptor of a bill, the drawer or indorser may be called to prove that there was usury in its original concoction, but there the evidence was given upon oath, and an opportunity was afforded to cross-examine the witnesses. Here these letters of Coates and Co. were not upon oath, and might be collusively written, with a view to defeat the fair claim of the plaintiff.—Lord Ellenborough ruled, that it was first necessary to prove by the post mark, or otherwise, that the letters were contemporaneous with the making of the note, and that after that they would be evidence of an act done by Coates and Co. who were the payees of the note, and through whom the plaintiff made title. Whether the act was proved by an oral declaration, or by other evidence, his lordship said, made no difference. The post mark being examined, did shew the letters to have been written just before the date of the note, and they were read in evidence accordingly; and Lord Ellenborough told the jury, that if they believed that the note was made on the terms held out in the letters, they must find for the defendant, who had a verdict accordingly; and on a motion for a new trial, it was contended, that the letters of the payee had been improperly admitted, but the court being of opinion that they were legal evidence to prove the usury as against the indorser; the verdict for the defendant was confirmed.

² Clipsam v. O'Brien, 1 Esp. Rep. 10.

³ Lewis v. Cosgrave, 2 Taunt. 2.

⁴ See the cases, ante, 91, 2, 3.

pulated price of a picture, cannot give the inadequacy of the consideration in evidence with a view to reduce the damages, though he may give it in evidence as a circumstance indicatory of fraud, in order to defeat the contract altogether ¹.

Evidence for the defendant.

Though we have seen that it is incumbent on the plaintiff in general to prove a due presentment and notice of the dishonour, in support of his action against the drawer or indorser of the bill, yet in doubtful cases it may be necessary for the defendant to be prepared with evidence to negative the plaintiff's *prima facie* proof; and we have seen that where the holder of a bill, upon its being dishonoured, received part payment, and for the residue another bill, drawn and accepted *by persons not parties to the original bill*, and such holder afterwards sued the indorser upon such original bill, it suffices for him to prove the presentment and dishonour of the substituted bill, and it is incumbent on the defendant to prove that a loss has been sustained in consequence of the want of notice of non-payment of such substituted bill ².

WE have already considered when it is necessary to subpoena a subscribing witness ³. It may here be proper to examine the cases respecting the admissibility of *witnesses* in an action on a bill or note.

Competency of witnesses.

The general rule is, that it is no objection to the *competency* of a witness that he is also a party to the same bill or note, unless he be *directly* interested in the event of the suit, and be called in support of such interest, or unless the verdict to obtain which his testimony is offered, would be admissible evidence in his favour in another suit ⁴. If the verdict will not ne-

¹ Soloman v. Turner, 1 Stark. 51.—Ante, 91.

² Bishop v. Rowe, 9 M. & S. 362.—Ante, 127.—See 7 Taunt. 312.
³ Taunt. 130.

⁴ Ante, 485, 6.

⁵ Bent v. Baker, 3 T. R. 27.—Jordaine v. Lashbrook, 7 T. R. 601. Smith v. Prager, 7 T. R. 62.—Jones v. Brooks, 4 Taunt. 464.—Bayl. 241.

Competency of
witnesses.

cessarily affect his own interest, he is a competent witness, and though his testimony, by defeating the *present* action on the bill or note, will probably deter the holder from proceeding in another action against the witness, yet that only affords matter of observation to the jury, as to the *credit* to be given to his testimony ¹.

Thus, though it was formerly held, that no party should be permitted to give testimony to invalidate an instrument he had signed ², a contrary rule now prevails ³.

Thus, in an action at the suit of an indorsee against the acceptor, the drawer, or indorser, is a competent witness for the defendant, to prove that the bill was originally void, as that it was made in London, though dated at Hamburgh, and consequently invalid for want of an English stamp ⁴. And Lord Mansfield admitted the maker of a note to prove, in an action against an indorser, that the date had been altered ⁵.

But in an old reporter it is stated to have been decided, that a person, supposed to be the drawer of a bill, cannot, without a release, be called to prove that he did not draw ⁶.

So if the witness has an interest inclining him as much to one of the parties as the other, so as upon the whole to make him indifferent in point of substantial interest in whose favour the verdict may be given, he will be competent to give evidence for

¹ Id. *ibid*.

² Walton v. Shelly, 1 T. R. 300.

³ Bent v. Baker, 3 T. R. 36.—Jordaine v. Lashbrook, 7 T. R. 601.

⁴ Jordaine v. Lashbrook, 7 T. R. 601—and Smith v. Prager, *id.* 62.

⁵ Levi v. Essex, Mich. Term, 1775.—2 Esp. N. P. 708. The plaintiff declared as an indorsee of a promissory note, drawn by Foster Charlton, payable to the defendant, dated the 13th of June, 1775; the defendant insisted, that the date of the note had been altered from the 3d to the 13th; and to prove it, called Foster Charlton. Lord Mansfield admitted him, as at all events he was liable to pay the note.

⁶ Anonymous, 12 Mod. 345.—Dupays v. Shepherd, Holt, 297.—Trials per Pais, 502.

either party¹. Thus where one partner drew a bill in the partnership firm and gave it in payment to a separate creditor, in discharge of his own debt, the Court of King's Bench held, that in an action by such creditor against the acceptor, either of the partners might be called on the part of the defendant to prove that the partner who drew the bill had no authority to draw it in the name of the firm, and that the bankruptcy of the partners would not vary the question as to the competency of the witness. In this case the partner who drew the bill would have been liable to the plaintiff for the amount of his debt, if the plaintiff had failed in the action; and if the plaintiff had succeeded, he would have been liable to the defendant, the acceptor, and with respect to the other partner, though he would have been liable to the defendant, if the plaintiff recovered, he would have had his remedy over against the joint partner². And though in another case the court held that a witness who might have a remedy by action, whether the plaintiff or defendant had a verdict, was nevertheless interested, because under the particular circumstances, he would have a greater difficulty in the one case than in the other, to enforce that remedy³. It has been observed that this appears to be the only case which has been decided on such a ground, and that from the leading cases on this subject which rest on the broad ground of interest, such a circumstance may now more properly be considered as having a strong influence on the witness, but not as forming any solid objection to his competency⁴.

Competency of
witnesses.

But if the verdict would necessarily benefit or affect the witness, as if he be liable to the costs of the

¹ Phil. Ev. 3d edit. 54 to 57.

² Ridley v. Taylor, 13 East, 175.—Phil. Ev. 3d edit. 55.

³ Buckland v. Tankard, 5 T. R. 579.

⁴ Phil. Ev. 3d edit. 56, 7.

Competency
witnesses.

action, then without a release, which will annul his interest in the event, he will not be a competent witness¹; and therefore in an action against the acceptor of a bill, accepted by him for the accommodation of the drawer; the latter is not a competent witness to prove that the holder came to the bill on usurious consideration, because he does not stand indifferently liable to the holder and the acceptor; for the holder can recover against him only the contents of the bill, but the acceptor would be entitled in an action for not indemnifying to recover against him, as well the amount of the bill as the damages he may have sustained, including the costs of the action against himself, and therefore the drawer has a direct interest in defeating such action². This decision seems to overrule the prior cases of *Birt and Kershaw*³, and *Shuttleworth v. Stephens*⁴. But if such accommodation acceptor release such drawer, the latter will be rendered competent, and if a person who has guaranteed

¹ *Jones v. Brooke*, 4 Taunt. 464.—Phil. on Ev. 3d edit. 49, 56.

² *Jones v. Brooke*, 4 Taunt. 464, and see Phil. Ev. 3d edit. 56.

Jones v. Brooke, 4 Taunt. 464. Per Mansfield, Ch. J. This action is brought against Brooke as the acceptor of a bill of exchange; at the trial, the defence made, was, that this bill was given by the drawer to the indorser on usurious consideration, the latter having taken usurious interest on discounting the bill; and that the bill was accepted for the accommodation of the drawer. An objection was taken to the witness, who was the wife of the drawer; and the objection was over-ruled, on the ground that it is now the practice to receive persons whose names are on bills of exchange, as witnesses to impeach such bills. And so it is; but here the question is, inasmuch as this was an action against the acceptor, whether she could be received as against the acceptor, the drawer, as it was contended, being interested to defeat the action: the doubt was this; the drawer has an interest to protect the acceptor; for if the holder succeeds against the acceptor, the acceptor will have a right against the drawer, to make the drawer pay, not only the money, but also all damages he the acceptor may have sustained by being sued for it; for the drawer of an accommodation-bill is bound to indemnify the acceptor against the consequences of an acceptance made for the accommodation of the drawer; we are therefore of opinion that the drawer cannot be a witness, and consequently the rule must be made absolute for entering a verdict for the plaintiff.

³ *Birt v. Kershaw*, 2 East. 458.

⁴ *Shuttleworth v. Stevens*, 1 Campb. 407.

the payment of a bill, has been discharged by his bankruptcy and certificate from liability to pay the amount of the bill, he is a competent witness, because he is also thereby relieved from liability to costs¹. Competency of witnesses.

In an action against the acceptor of a bill the drawer is a competent witness either for the plaintiff to prove the hand-writing of the acceptor², or for the defendant to prove that the plaintiff discounted the bill upon an usurious consideration³, or that it has been paid⁴. And the circumstance of the witness being

¹ *Brend v. Bacon*, 5 Taunt. 183.

² *Dickenson v. Prentice*, 4 Esp. Rep. 32.—*Barber v. Gingell*, 3 Esp. Rep. 62.—*Bayl.* 242.

Dickenson v. Prentice, 4 Esp. 32. This was an action against the defendant as acceptor of a bill, the defence intended to be set up was, that the acceptance was a forgery; to prove defendant's hand-writing, the plaintiff called the drawer, it was objected that having drawn the bill, the forgery of the acceptance could only be imputable to him, and that as he might be committed for a capital offence if the forgery was established, he had such an interest as ought to disqualify him. But Lord Kenyon said, this was matter of observation as to his credit; but no objection to his admissibility. He was admitted and the plaintiff had a verdict.

³ *Rich v. Topping*, Peake R. 224.—1 Esp. Rep. 176. S. C.—*Brown v. Ackerman*, 5 Esp. Rep. 119.—*Bayl.* 242.

Rich v. Topping, Peake, 224. The drawer himself had indorsed the bill to the plaintiff for an usurious consideration, he had a release from the acceptor, which Lord Kenyon thought was necessary. The learned reporter, however, in a note on the case, considers that the witness stood indifferent, and ought to have been received even without a release, and in *Brard v. Ackerman*, 5 Esp. Rep. 119. the drawer (under precisely similar circumstances) was admitted without a release, at least it is not stated that he had any.

⁴ *Humphrey v. Moxon*, Peake Rep. 52.—*Charrington v. Milner*, Peake Rep. 6.—*Bayl.* 242.

Humphrey v. Moxon, Peake Rep. 52. Assumpsit on a bill of exchange, indorsee against acceptor. The defendant's counsel offered to call the drawer to prove that the bill was paid by him, and relied on the case of *Gardner and Carter*, determined some time since. Erskine objected to this witness. This case differs from that of *Gardner and Carter*, there the payee was the plaintiff; this action is brought by the indorsee: Lord Kenyon. It makes no difference. The courts have laid down a rule that a man shall not destroy his own security, this man does not come to destroy his own security, but to shew that it has been satisfied. He was therefore received, but it appearing that notice had been given to him the day after the bill became due, of its having been dishonoured by the acceptor, he was again objected to on account of interest. Lord Kenyon inclined to think this last objection a good one, because being liable to pay the bill himself on account of due notice having been given, by proving it paid, now he destroyed the bill, and would

Competency of witnesses.

then in prison under a charge of having forged the bill, will not affect his competency to give such evidence¹.

In an action by the indorsee against the drawer of a bill, a prior indorser is a competent witness for the plaintiff, to prove that the defendant promised to pay the bill after it became due², and a prior indorser of a note is a competent witness for the maker to prove it paid³.

In an action against the drawer of a bill in order to excuse the neglect to give him due notice of the dishonour, the acceptor is a competent witness to prove that he had not received any value for his acceptance, for though by supporting the action against the drawer he may perhaps relieve himself from an action at the suit of the holder, yet he at the same time gives an action against himself at the suit of the drawer, in which the evidence he has given of the want of consideration would not avail him, but must be proved by another person⁴.

The drawer will not, however, be allowed in support of a defence to an action, at the suit of an indorsee against the acceptor, to set up a title to the bill in

eventually discharge himself. His lordship, however, doubting whether the notice was given early enough, did not reject, but admitted his testimony, subject to the opinion of the court if the plaintiff chose to move for a new trial. The bill was for £73, and the witness proving payment of £30 only, the plaintiff had a verdict for the balance.

¹ Barber v. Gingell, 3 Esp. Rep. 62.—Bayl. 243.

Barber v. Gingell, 3 Esp. Rep. 62. The drawer was called to prove that he had paid the bill. Being at that time a prisoner on a charge of having forged the bill and brought up by Habeas Corpus, he was objected to as incompetent, but Lord Kenyon over-ruled the objection. See Dickenson v. Prentice, ante, p. 531.

² Stevens v. Lynch, 2 Campb. 332.—12 East. 38, S. C.

³ Charrington v. Milner, Peake R. 6.—Humphrey v. Moxon, id. 52, ante, 531. Charrington v. Milner, Peake R. 6. The note had been indorsed by Monk to the plaintiff, and the defendant was allowed by Lord Kenyon to call Monk to prove that he had paid the note to the plaintiffs.

⁴ Staples v. Okines, 1 Esp. Rep. 332.—Legge v. Thorp, 2 Campb. 310. Peake Ev. 4th ed. 170.

himself by proving, that he had delivered the bill to the plaintiff without consideration, and as his agent only, to enable him to obtain payment, for his situation would be better or worse according to the event of the verdict; nor will a release from the defendant render him a competent witness for such purpose¹.

Competency of
witnesses.

By a recent statute it has been declared "that a witness cannot by law refuse to answer a question relevant to the matter in issue, the answering of which has no tendency to accuse himself, or to expose him to penalty or forfeiture of any nature whatsoever, by reason only, or on the sole ground that the answering of such question may establish or tend to establish that he owes a debt or is otherwise subject to a civil suit, either at the instance of his majesty or of any other person²." But it has recently been determined³, that a witness cannot be required to answer a ques-

¹ *Buckland v. Tankard*, 5 T. R. 578.—1 Esp. Rep. 85. S. C.—Bul. N. P. 288.

Buckland v. Tankard, 5 T. R. 578. This was an action by the indorsee against the acceptor of a bill. The bill was drawn by Gregson payable to his own order, and indorsed by him in blank, and the defendant called Gregson to prove that he had indorsed and delivered it to the plaintiff, that he might get it paid and not to give him any interest in it, and that he had no consideration for it, and was still entitled to it. The witness had a release from the acceptor. Lord Kenyon thought him interested, and rejected him. And on a rule nisi for a new trial the court held that his situation would be better or worse according to the event of the verdict, and that therefore he was properly rejected.—Rule discharged.

² 46 Geo. 3. c. 37.

³ *Cates v. Hardacre*, 3 Taunt. 424.—Phil. Ev. 3d ed. 222.—1 Chitty, Crim. Law, 620, 1.

Cates v. Hardacre, 3 Taunt. 424. This was an action by an indorsee against the drawer of a bill, drawn payable to the drawer's order, upon Stratton, and by him accepted, and afterwards dishonoured; it was stated in the declaration to have been indorsed by the defendant to the plaintiff. The case was tried before Heath, J. at Westminster, at the sittings after last Hilary term; the plaintiff proved his case. The defence intended to be set up was usury. The first witness called on the part of the defendant was one Taylor, and the bill having been put into his hands, he was asked by Shepherd, Serjeant, for the defendant, "whether that bill had ever been in his possession before;" upon which Best, Serjeant, interfered, by asking the witness whether he had not been indicted for usury in this transaction, and upon his answering in the affirmative, Best cautioned him against answering questions which might tend to criminate him; the witness said that he thought his answer to the question proposed

Competency of
witnesses.

tion that he may *think* will tend to convict him of the offence of usury.

would have a tendency to convict him of the offence of usury; the learned judge told him, that if he thought so, he was not bound to answer the question; the witness availed himself of this direction, and the counsel for the defendant being thus prevented from pursuing his enquiry, a verdict passed for the plaintiff.—Shepherd, Serjeant, moved for a new trial, contending that the judge's direction was wrong; that it was not sufficient that a witness thought that his answers would tend to criminate him; but that it ought clearly to appear that they would have that effect.—Mansfield, C. J. your questions go to connect the witness with the bill, and they may be links in a chain.—Rule refused.

CHAPTER V.

OF THE SUM RECOVERABLE IN AN ACTION ON A
BILL, &c.

THE amount of the DAMAGES which the plaintiff is entitled to recover, necessarily depends on the liability of the parties to the instrument; the nature of which liability has already been considered in that part of the work which treats of the drawing, acceptance, transfer, and dishonour of bills¹, and from whence it may be collected, that, in general, the sum for which the bill is payable, may be recovered, and in certain cases, interest, and such expences as may have been occasioned by the dishonour of it.

With respect to the *principal money*, or that sum which is payable on the face of the bill or note, many instances occur, in which, although the plaintiff may not have given full value for the bill, &c. he may, nevertheless, recover the whole sum, holding the overplus beyond his own demand as trustee for some other party to the bill, &c. entitled to receive such overplus. Thus, if a bill be drawn in the regular course of business, as for money really due from the drawee to the drawer, in such case in order to avoid several actions, an indorsee, though he hath not given the full value of the bill, may recover the whole sum payable, and be the holder of the overplus as a trustee for the indorser²; and if the holder receive part payment of the first indorser, he may, nevertheless, recover the whole against the drawer, and acceptor, though, if the acceptor pay

1st. The principal money.

¹ See Index, tit. Damages and Protest.

² Wiffen v. Roberts, 1 Esp. Rep. 261.

1st. The principal money.

a part, then only the residue can be recovered against the drawer'. This rule, permitting the holder of a bill, &c. to recover more than is due to himself, only applies where there is some other person entitled to receive from the defendant the overplus of what is due to the plaintiff, and if there be no such person, the plaintiff will be permitted only to recover what is due to himself¹. But in case of bankruptcy, the holder may prove the whole amount under a commission against a remote party, and receive a dividend until his debt is satisfied, though he cannot prove for more than the sum actually due on the balance of account against his immediate indorser². We have, in the preceding chapter, seen, that a partial failure of consideration cannot be given in evidence to reduce the damages, though the total failure is an answer to the action³.

When a bill or note is payable by instalments, and it contains a clause, that on failure of payment of any one instalment, the whole shall become due, the holder is entitled to recover the whole amount of the sum for which it was given: but where the instrument does not contain such a clause, it is doubtful on the authorities, whether the holder can legally take a verdict for more than the instalment due. According to the case of Beckwith against Nott⁴, and several other cases cited by Lord Loughborough in giving the opinion of the Court in the case of Rudder v. Price⁵, the plaintiff is entitled to the whole sum for which the note was given; but according to other cases, and particularly that of Ashford v. Hand⁷, the plaintiff is only entitled to the in-

¹ Walwyn v. St. Quintin, 1 Bos. & Pul. 658.—Johnson v. Kennion, 2 Wils. 262. and see the same rule in proof in bankruptcy, ex parte De Tastet, 1 Rose, 10.

² Pierson v. Dunlop, Cowp. 571.—Steel v. Bradfield, 4 Taunt. 227.

³ Ex parte Bloxham, 6 Ves. 449. 600. S. C.—Acc. 5 Ves. 448.—Cullen, 97. n. 35.—Ex parte Leers, 6 Ves. 644. contra, post.

⁴ Ante, 526. quære ante, 92.

⁵ Beckwith v. Nott, Cro. Jac. 505.—Jenk. 333. S. C.

⁶ Rudder v. Price, 1 Hen. Bla. 551.

⁷ Ashford v. Hand, Andr. 370.—Robinson v. Bland, 2 Burr. 1085.

stalment due at the time of commencing the action. When at the time of the trial, nearly all the instalments are due, the jury will frequently, for the sake of avoiding another action, give the whole sum in damages. If the plaintiff take a verdict for more than he is entitled to recover, the court will either make him correct the verdict, and pay the costs occasioned by his misconduct, or grant a new trial¹.

1st. The principal money.

When interest is made payable by the bill, &c. itself, there is no doubt of its being recoverable; and it is also recoverable from the acceptor of a bill, and the maker of a promissory note payable at a certain time after date or sight from the day on which they became due, without proof of any demand², or if payable on demand from the time of the demand³. Interest is computed and given at law as well as in equity upon bills of exchange from the time they became due, in the nature of damages, not strictly as interest; and for breach of contract not in pursuance of it⁴. But in case of bankruptcy, although there be a surplus, bills do not carry interest unless the previous dealings between the parties afforded evidence of a contract to pay interest⁵. But the drawer or indorser of a bill of exchange, or the indorser of a note is only liable to pay interest from the time he receives notice of the dishonour⁶, and not even then in the case of an inland bill, unless it has been protested for non-payment⁷;

2dly. Interest.

¹ *Bacon v. Scarles*, 1 Hen. Bl. 88.—*Pierson v. Dunlop*, Cowp. 571: Bayl. 90. acc.—*Johnson v. Kennion*, 2 Wils. 262. semb. contra.

² 3 Ves. jun. 134.—5 Ves. jun. 803.—*Lithgow v. Lyon and others*, 1 Cowp. Ch. Ca. 29.—*Lowndes v. Collens*, 17 Ves. jun. 27.

³ *Upton v. Lord Ferrers*, 5 Ves. jun. 801.—*Farquhar v. Morris*, 7 T. R. 124.—*Blaney v. Hendrick*, 2 Bla. Rep. 761.—3 Wils. 205. S. C.—*Vernon v. Cholmondeley*, Bunb. 119.—*Frith v. Leroux*, 2 T. R. 58.—*Marius*, 13.—*Cotten v. Horsemanden*, Prac. Reg. 857.; and see the cases and law in *De Haviland v. Bowerbank*, 1 Campb. 50 to 53.—*Porter v. Palsgrave*, 2 Campb. 473.—3 Ves. jun. 134, 5.

⁴ *Ex parte Williams*, 1 Rose, 399, and *Ex parte Coeks*, id. 317.—*Lowndes v. Collens*, 17 Ves. jun. 27.—*Lithgow v. Lyon*, 1 Cowp. Ch. Ca. 29.

⁵ *Id. ibid.*

⁶ *Walker v. Barnes*, 5 Taunt. 240.—1 Marsh. 36, S. C.

⁷ *Ante*, 282. 398. 517.—1 Atk. 611.—2 Bridgm. 599.

2dly. Interest.

and where the maker of a promissory note paid money into the hands of an agent to retire it, and the agent tendered the money to the holder on condition of having it delivered up, and the note being mislaid, that condition was not complied with, and the agent afterwards became bankrupt with the money in his hands; it was held, that though the maker was still responsible for the amount of the note, he was relieved from payment of interest¹; and when goods are sold to be paid for by a bill of exchange, and the purchaser neglects to give the bill, the vendor is entitled to interest from the time when the bill, if given, would have become due²; and the interest may, in that case, be recovered under the common count for goods sold³; and this doctrine applies to any case where there is a contract to pay by a bill⁴.

But interest is not recoverable on a debt for goods sold, even on limited credit⁵, or for work and labour⁶, or for money had and received, or lent, unless there was a course of dealing allowing it⁷, unless it can be proved that the defendant made use of the money, and did not merely withhold it⁸.

In some cases it is said, that interest is payable from the date of the note, as where it appears on the face

¹ *Dent v. Dunn*, 2 Campb. 296.

² *Middleton v. Gill*, 4 Taunt. 298, 9.—*Lowndes v. Collens*, 17 Ves. jun. 27.—*Porter v. Palsgrave*, 2 Campb. 472.—*Boyce v. Warburton*, 2 Campb. 480. 428.

³ *Manhall v. Poole*, 13 East. 98. but see *Slack v. Lowell*, 3 Taunt. 157.

⁴ *Furlonge v. Rucker*, 4 Taunt. 250.

⁵ *Gordon v. Swan*, 12 East. 419.—2 Campb. 429.; but see *Mountford v. Willes*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 337.—*Blaney v. Hendrick*, 3 Wils. 205. 2 Bla. Rep. 761. S. C.—*Trelawney v. Thomas*, 1 Hen. Bla. 305.—*De Haviland v. Bowerbank*, 1 Campb. 51.

⁶ *Trelawney v. Thomas*, 1 Hen. Bla. 305.—*Blaney v. Hendrick*, 3 Wils. 205.—2 Bla. Rep. 761. S. C.—*De Haviland v. Bowerbank*, 1 Campb. 51.

⁷ *Calton v. Bragg*, 15 East. 223.—*Ex parte Williams*, 1 Rose, 399. *Denton v. Rodie*, 3 Campb. 496.—*Gwyn v. Godby*, 4 Taunt. 346.

⁸ *Thompson v. Morgan*, 3 Campb. 102.—*Walker v. Constable*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 306.—*De Haviland v. Bowerbank*, 1 Campb. 50.—*Crockford v. Winter*, id. 129.—*De Bernales v. Fuller*, 2 Campb. 426.

of it to have been given for money lent¹; or is payable with interest². Bankers cannot charge interest upon interest without an express contract for that purpose³.

Under *particulars of demand*, stating that the action was brought to recover the amount of a note of hand, it was holden, that interest on it is recoverable, and that when a note is payable by instalments, and on failure of payment of any instalment, the whole is to become due, the interest is to be calculated on the whole sum remaining unpaid on default of any instalment, and not on the respective instalments, at the respective times, when they would become payable⁴.

With respect to *the time when interest stops*, Lord Mansfield declared⁵, that the general practice of the associates, in taking damages in cases where the debt carried interest, was to stop at the commencement of the action⁶; which practice was not founded in law, but in mistake and misapprehension; and that in point of justice, interest should be carried down quite to the actual payment of the money; but as that cannot be, it should be carried down to the time when the demand is completely liquidated, by the judgment being signed, by which means complete justice is done to the plaintiff, and the temptation to a defendant to make use of all the unjust dilatories of chicane, is taken away: for if interest were to stop at the commencement of the suit, when the sum is large, the defendant might gain by protracting the cause in the most expensive and vexatious manner. In trover for bills of exchange, interest, from the date of the final judgment upon all such bills as had been received before the judgment, and upon all such as had

¹ Cotton v. Horsemanden, Prac. Reg. 357.—Bayl. 158.

² Kennerly v. Nash, 1 Stark. 452.

³ Dawes v. Pinner, 2 Campb. 486, in note, ante, n. 110. But see Bruce v. Hunter, 3 Campb. 467.

⁴ Blake v. Lawrence, 4 Esp. Rep. 147.

⁵ In Robinson against Bland, 2 Burr. 1085.

⁶ Randolph v. Reginder, Prac. Reg. 357.

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been received afterwards from the time of the receipt was allowed in the exchequer chamber¹; but it has been recently determined, that in trover for bills, interest cannot be recovered after the time of the demand and refusal to deliver them up². So we have seen, that after a tender and a wrongful refusal to deliver up a bill, the interest thereon ceases to run³.

The rate of interest allowed in this country is £5 per cent. per annum, as well in courts of equity as at law⁴.

In an action against the drawer of a foreign bill of exchange dishonoured here by non-acceptance, where the plaintiff is allowed a per centage as of £10 per cent. in name of damages, he is only entitled to interest from the day the bill ought to have been paid, but where there is no such allowance for damages, the plaintiff is entitled to interest from the day the bill was dishonoured for non-acceptance⁵. And in a late case, upon a bill drawn in Bermuda, on England, which ought to have been paid in England, the plaintiff recovered 7½ interest, being the rate of interest at Bermuda⁶.

¹ Atkins v. Wheeler, 2 New Rep. 205.

² Mercer v. Jones, 3 Campb. 477.

³ Ante, 538.

⁴ Upton v. Lord Ferrers, 5 Ves. jun. 803.—Ante, 416. n.

⁵ Gantt v. Mackenzie, 3 Campb. 51. This was an action on a bill of exchange for £1000, drawn at Barbadoes, the 8th of February, 1809, by the defendant, on Scott, Idles, and Co. in London, payable to the plaintiff at sixty days sight. The bill was refused acceptance on the 17th April, 1809, and was afterwards presented for payment on the 19th June following, and again dishonoured. The only question was, from what period interest was to be calculated. Lord Ellenborough left this upon the custom of merchants to the special jury, who said the holder of the bill was entitled to £10 per cent. as damages, and that interest was to be allowed only from the time when the bill was presented for payment; and Mr. Waddington, the foreman, observed, that he had known it to be so settled in a case before Mr. Justice Buller. Verdict accordingly. But in a case of Harrison v. Dickson, tried at the same sittings, which was an action against the indorser of bill of exchange, drawn upon England from New South Wales, the plaintiff did not claim any per centage, upon the principal as damages, and was allowed interest from the time the bill was dishonoured for non-acceptance.

⁶ Dougan v. Banks, N.P. sittings after Mich. T. 57 Geo. 3. Dec. 12. Pocock, attorney.

The only *expence* which the holder of a bill, at the time it became due, can be put to by the dishonour of it, is that of the charge for noting and protesting, and he cannot demand more of any of the parties to the bill, than a satisfaction for that expense. But a party who has been obliged to pay the holder in consequence of the acceptor's refusal, frequently is put to other expences by the return of the bill, such as *re-exchange, postage, commission, and provision*¹.

Re-exchange is the expence incurred by the bill being dishonoured in a foreign country in which it was payable, and returned to the country in which it was made or indorsed, and there taken up: the amount of it depends on the course of the *exchange* between the countries through which the bill has been negotiated². It is not necessary for the plaintiff to shew that he has paid the re-exchange: it appears not to be decided, whether any exchange or re-exchange can be allowed between this and an enemy's country³. It is said⁴, that the relative abundance, or scarcity, of money in different countries, is what forms the exchange between those countries. In the drawing of bills on a foreign country, the value of money in that country is the first thing to be inquired into; thus, for instance, supposing 71,000 livres tournois are worth £603:19s:10d. English money sterling, and that an English merchant has sold goods of the value of £603:19s:10d. to a Frenchman, who wishes to pay him for the same by a bill of exchange payable in France, the bill must of course be drawn for 71,000 livres tournois: if at the time the bill is

¹ *Auriol v. Thomas*, 2 T. R. 52.

² Cullen, 172.—1 Montague's Bank. Law, 146.—For the nature of Exchange, see Mont. Esp. L. b. 2. l. 10. and Smith's Wealth of Nations, 2d. vol. 144. 213. 234. and the observations in *De Tastet v. Baring*, 11 East. 269.—Bayl. 159, 160.

³ *De Tastet v. Baring*, 11 East. 265.

⁴ Cullen, 172.—Cullen, 102.—1 Montague, 146.—For the nature of Exchange, see Mont. Esp. L. b. 2. l. 10. and Smith's Wealth of Nations, 2d vol. 144. 234. And see observations in *De Tastet v. Baring*, 11 East. 269.

Re-exchange.

due, the exchange is in favour of France, and consequently the value of 71,000 livres tournois exceeds that of £603:19s:10d. English money, and the bill be returned to this country, and the *drawer*, or an *indorser*, be called on to take it up, he may (as in the case of *Mellish v. Simeon* ¹), be obliged to pay £309:4s:5d. more than the amount of the bill, which sum forms what is called the re-exchange, and is the difference between the draft and redraft². It appears that the *drawer* of a bill is liable for the whole amount of the re-exchange occasioned by the circuitous mode of returning the bill through the various countries in which it has been negotiated, as much as for that occasioned by a direct return, although payment of the bill were expressly prohibited by the laws of the country on which it was drawn³. But the acceptor is not liable for re-exchange, for his contract cannot be carried farther than to pay the sum specified in the bill, together with legal interest, where interest is due⁴. Where A. deposited a sum of money at the banking-house of B., in Paris, for which B. gave him his note payable in Paris, or at the choice of the bearer, at the Union Bank, in Dover, or at B.'s usual residence in London, according to the course of exchange upon Paris, and after this note was given, the direct course of exchange between London and Paris ceased altogether, having been previously to its total cessation extremely low, and the note was at a subsequent period presented for acceptance, and payment at the residence of B., in London, at which time there was a circuitous course of exchange on Paris, by way of Hamburgh, and it was holden, that A. was intitled to recover on the note according to such circuitous course of exchange upon Paris, at the

¹ *Mellish v. Simeon*, 2 Hen. Bla. 378. vide note ante, 122.

² *Francis v. Rucker*, Amb. 674. 2 Smith. W. N. 228.

³ Ante, 122.

⁴ *Napier v. Schneider*, 12 East. 420.—Bayl. 160.

time when the note was presented¹. Between this Re-exchange. country and India, it is not customary to make a distinct charge of re-exchange; but it has been the constant course with respect to bills for payment of pagodas in the East Indies, and returned protested, to allow at the rate of 10s. per pagoda, and five per cent. after the expiration of thirty days from the notice to the defendant of the bill's dishonour, which includes interest, exchange, and all other charges². It appears from the case of *Francis v. Rucker*³, that the drawer and indorsers of bills, drawn in Pennsylvania on any person in Europe, and returned protested for non-payment to that country, are liable to the payment of £20 per cent. advance for the damage thereof. But the liability to pay re-exchange does not extend to the *acceptor* of a bill accepted in England: he is only liable for the principal sum, together with interest, according to the legal rate of interest where the bill is payable⁴.

In *De Tastet v. Baring*⁵, a verdict having passed for the defendants in an action to recover the amount of the re-exchange upon the dishonour of a bill drawn from London on Lisbon, upon evidence that the enemy was in possession of Portugal when the bill became due, and Lisbon was then blockaded by a British squadron, and there was in fact no direct exchange between London and Lisbon, though bills had in some few instances been negotiated between them through Hamburgh and America about that period, the Court refused to grant a new trial, on the presumption that the jury had found their verdict on the fact that no re-exchange was found to their satisfaction to have existed between Lisbon and London at the time;

¹ *Pollard v. Herries*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 335.—Ante, 367. and see Bayl. 159, 160.

² *Auriol v. Thomas*, 2 T. R. 52.—Bayl. 161.

³ *Francis v. Rucker*, Amb. 672.

⁴ *Woolsley v. De Crawford*, 2 Campb. 445.—*Napier v. Schneider*, 12 East. 420. but see *Pothier* cited in *Manning's Index*, 64.

⁵ 11 East. 265.—2 Campb. 65. S. C.

Re-exchange.

the question having been properly left to them to allow damages in the name of re-exchange, if the plaintiff, who had indorsed the dishonoured bill to the holder, had either paid, or was liable to pay, re-exchange; and saving the question of law, whether any exchange or re-exchange could be allowed between this and a country in possession of the enemy.

Provision, &c.

With respect to *provision*, it is said by Pothier¹, that it is usual for the holder of a bill to allow his agent, to whom he indorses it for the purpose of receiving payment for him, a certain sum of money called provision, at the rate of so much per cent. to recompense him, not only for his trouble, but also, if such agent be a banker, for the risk he runs of losing the money, which he is obliged to deposit with his correspondents in different places for the purpose of repaying his principal the amount of the money received on the bills. And it is said, that one half per cent. is not an unreasonable allowance, whether the agent be a banker or not.

The charges above enumerated, are the only legal ones, nor can any extraordinary loss not necessarily incidental, which the holder or other parties may be put to by travelling, or by some advantageous engagement being delayed or defeated by the want of punctual payment, be in any case legally demanded².

¹ Pl. 86, 87, 88.

² Lovelas, 235. cites Lex Merc. 461.—Poth. pl. 65.—Auriol v. Thomas, 2 T. R. 52.—Woolsley v. De Crawford, 2 Campb. 445.

CHAPTER VI.

OF THE ACTION OF DEBT ON A BILL, &c.

THE remedy by *action of debt*, to enforce payment of a bill or note, and the *proof* of it *under a commission of bankruptcy*, remain to be considered in this chapter.

The *action of debt* on simple contract was formerly much in use, but was afterwards disused on account of the *wager of law*¹; it has lately revived in practice, and is now become a common action for the recovery of money due on simple contract. The principal advantages arising from adopting this remedy, are, *first*, that the plaintiff need not, after judgment by default, execute a writ of inquiry, or refer to the master to compute principal and interest; and, *secondly*, that the defendant must, in debt, on a *bill of exchange*, if there be no other count in the declaration on another simple contract, put in special bail on bringing a *writ of error*²; but bail in error is not necessary, on a judgment by default in debt, on a *promissory note*, the validity of which instrument was not established until after the Statute James 1. c. 8.³. And if a declaration, in debt on a bill of exchange, contain any one count on a contract for which debt would not lie at the time of passing the Statute 3 J. 1. c. 8. bail in error is not necessary⁴. Debt on simple contract, also, is not sustainable against executors or administrators⁵, except in the Court of Ex-

Sect. 1. Of the action of debt on a bill or note.

¹ Gilb. on the Action of Debt, 363, 4.

² Ablet v. Ellis, 1 Bos. & Pul. 249.—Trier v. Bridgman, 2 East. 359.

³ Trier v. Bridgman, 2 East. 359.

⁴ Webb v. Geddes, 1 Taunt. 540.—Trier v. Bridgman, 2 East. 359.

⁵ Barry v. Robinson, 1 New Rep. 293.—Norwood v. Read, Plowd. 182.—Palmer v. Lawson, 1 Lev. 200.—Pinchon's case, 9 Co. 86, 7. 3 Bla. Com. 347.

Sect. 1. Of the action of debt on a bill or note.

chequer, where wager of law is not allowed¹, or by special custom in the city of London².

This action may be supported by the *payee* of a *promissory note* against the *maker*, when expressed to be for *value received*³, and by the *payee* of a foreign or inland bill of exchange expressed to be for *value received* against the *drawer*⁴, and by the first indorsee against the first indorser, who was also the drawer of a bill payable to his own order⁵. In *Bishop v. Young*⁶, (the most recent decision on the subject,) the court said, "We do not say how the case would stand, if
" the action were brought by any other person than
" him to whom the note was originally given, or
" against any other person than him by whom it was
" signed and made, or if the note itself did not ex-
" press a consideration upon the face of it." Therefore it is still uncertain, whether in respect of the want of privity between the parties, an *indorsee* can support an action of debt against the drawer of a bill or maker of a note.

Debt is not sustainable on a *collateral* engagement, as on a promise to pay the debt of another⁷; and, it has been holden, that debt cannot be supported on a bill of exchange by the *payee* against the *acceptor*⁸; therefore bail in error is not necessary upon a judgment in debt against the acceptor of a bill⁹; *first*, because

¹ *Id. ibid.*

² *The City of London's case*, 8 Co. 126 a.

³ *Bishop v. Young*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 78.—Bayl. 162.—Selwyn 4th ed. 363. n. 69.

⁴ *Bishop v. Young*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 82, 3, 4.—*Hodges v. Steward*, Skin. 346.

⁵ ——— *v. ———*, Exchequer, A. D. 1817.

⁶ *Bishop v. Young*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 78. 84.

⁷ *Anonymous*, Hardr. 486.—Com. Dig. tit. Debt, B.—*Purslow v. Baily*, 2 Id. Raym. 1040.—*Hodsdon v. Harridge*, 2 Saund. 62 b.

⁸ *Bishop v. Young*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 80. 82, 83.—*Anonymous*, Hardr. 485.—*Simmonds v. Parminter*, 1 Wils. 185.—*Browne v. London*, 1 Mod. 285.—Gilb. Debt, 364.—Com. Dig. tit. Debt, B.—*Anonymous*, 12 Mod. 345.—Bayl. 94.—1 Taunt. 540.—2 Campb. 187. n. a.

⁹ *Webb v. Geddes*, 1 Taunt. 540.

no privity of contract exists between those parties¹; and, *secondly*, because in an action of debt on simple contract, the consideration ought to be shewn, which is not stated in a declaration on a bill, and an acceptance is only in the nature of a collateral promise or engagement to pay, which creates no duty². In *Rumball v. Ball*³, the plaintiff recovered in an action of debt on a promissory note, and in another reporter it is said, that debt will lie against the maker of a note, but not against an indorser⁴. In *Welsh v. Craig*⁵, it was holden that debt would not lie upon a note, but, as it has been observed, it does not appear by, or against, what particular party that action was brought⁶, though from the argument of counsel it may be inferred, that the action was against an indorser⁷. Debt is not sustainable on a promissory note payable by instalments, unless the whole be due⁸.

¹ Rol. Ab. 597. pl. 4. 10.—*Core's case*, 1 Dyer, 21. a.

² *Bishop v. Young*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 83.—*Hodges v. Steward*, 1 Salk. 125. pl. 5.—Vin. Ab. tit. Bills, N. But perhaps, the action of debt might now be sustainable by the payee, &c. against an acceptor, *first*, because with respect to privity of contract it has been holden, that if one deliver money to another to pay over to a third person, the cestuique use may sustain an action of debt against the bailee to recover it, *Harris v. De Bervoir*, Cro. Jac. 687.; 1 Rol. Ab. 441: 597. l. 55.—*Whorewood v. Shaw*, Yelv. 23.; and the acceptance of a bill amounts to a promise in law, to pay the amount of it to the person in whose favour it is drawn; *Hussey v. Jacob*, 1 Ld. Raym. 88.; and, *secondly*, because an acceptance is not a *collateral* engagement, nor is it similar to a promise by A. to pay the debt of B., if B. do not, an argument which was adduced in support of the doctrine, but the acceptor is primarily liable; *Bishop v. Young*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 83.; and, *lastly*, because whenever the common law or custom raises a duty, debt lies for it, Anonymous, Hardr. 486. Com. Dig. Debt, A. *Hussey v. Jacob*, Ld. Raym. 88. on which ground *Twisden, J.* held, that *indebitatus assumpsit* would lie on a bill of exchange at the suit of the payee against the acceptor. *Brown v. London*, 1 Vent. 152. Anonymous, Holt. 296.—Anonymous, 12 Mod. 345.—*Hodges v. Steward*, Skin. 346. acc.—*Brown v. London*, 1 Freem. 14.—1 Mod. 285.—1 Vent. 152. S. C.—*Hodges v. Steward*, Comb. 204. contra.

³ *Rumball v. Ball*, 10 Mod. 38.; observed on in *Bishop v. Young*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 84.

⁴ 1 Mod. Ent. 312. pl. 13.

⁵ *Welsh v. Craig*, 2 Stra. 680.—8 Mod 173. S. C. observed on in *Bishop v. Young*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 80, 1, 2.

⁶ *Bishop v. Young*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 81.—Bayl. 94. n. c.

⁷ *Bishop v. Young*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 80.

⁸ *Rudder v. Price*, 1 Hen. Bla. 548.

CHAPTER VII.

OF BANKRUPTCY.

IN the preceding chapters, our attention has been principally directed to the consideration of the remedies in cases where the parties to a bill, or other negotiable security, may be supposed to be *solvent*. In this chapter the rights and liabilities of the parties, and the course of proceeding in the case of *bankruptcy*, will be treated of. In this inquiry, we shall only consider that part of the law of bankruptcy which peculiarly relates to bills of exchange and other negotiable securities.

The subject is to be considered under the following heads :

I. What constitutes a *trading* by being a party to bills.

II. The *act of bankruptcy* in relation to bills.

III. The *petitioning creditor's debt* being holder of bill.

IV. The *proof* of bills, &c.

1st. What bills may be proved.

2d. Who may prove.

3d. Against whom and under what commission.

4th. For what sums, or to what extent the proof may be made.

5th. The time of proof and of claims.

6th. The mode and terms of proof, and remedy for the dividend.

7th. The consequences of not proving, and effect of certificate.

V. Of *mutual credit*.

VI. General *effect of bankruptcy* on the property of the bankrupt and of others.

I. WHAT CONSTITUTES A TRADING BY BEING A PARTY TO
A BILL.

With respect to the *trading*; drawing and redrawing bills of exchange, for the sake of the profit, is a trading sufficient to subject a party to be made a bankrupt, without other circumstances, if it be general and not merely occasional¹. This is founded on the 13 Eliz. c. 7. and 21 J. 1. c. 19. s. 2. which enact, "That every person using the trade of merchandise by way of bargaining, exchange, bartering, chevissance, or otherwise, in gross or by retail, may become bankrupts." Instances of this description do not often occur. In the case of *Richardson v. Bradshaw*², the bankrupt Wilson for several years received money from officers and other persons, and his cashier gave accountable notes for it, and these persons drew from time to time upon Wilson for such sums, payable either to bearer or order, as they thought proper; and this repeated dealing was held to be a trafficking in exchange, and a trading sufficient in itself to subject him to a commission of bankruptcy³, upon the principle, that persons of this description make merchandise of money and bills, and gain an extensive credit upon the profits of that course of dealing, in the same manner as other merchants and traders do by buying and selling, or using the trade of merchandise in gross, or by retail, with respect to other goods and moveable chattels⁴. On the same principle, borrowing money abroad for the purpose of repaying it in England at a certain rate of exchange, and repaying it by bills upon bankers in London, to whom foreign bills were remitted to make the payment, was held to be a trading⁵.

¹ *Richardson v. Bradshaw*, 1 Atk. 129.—*Hankey v. Jones*, Cowp. 745.—1 Mont. 22.—*Cullen*, 10.—*Cook*, 52.

² 1 Atk. 128.—*Cook*, 61.

³ *Richardson v. Bradshaw*, 1 Atk. 129.—*Ex parte Wilson*, 1 Atk. 218.

⁴ 2 Bla. Com. 475.

⁵ *Inglis v. Grant*, 5 T. R. 530. 1 Mont. 22

1. The trading.

But an occasional drawing and redrawing bills of exchange, though for the sake of profit, as where it is done for the purpose of raising money to improve a person's own estate, or for other private occasions, will not render a person liable to the bankrupt laws¹. And the statutes relating to Exchequer Bills² expressly provide that a party circulating the same shall not be deemed a trader within the bankrupt laws.

II. THE ACTS OF BANKRUPTCY IN RELATION TO BILLS.

2. Act of bankruptcy.

With respect to the *act of bankruptcy*; stopping payment, or refusing payment of, or renewing a bill of exchange, does not amount to an act of bankruptcy³. But a denial by a trader to the holder of a bill of exchange actually due, or to his clerk, at any time of the day, when it became due, constitutes an act of bankruptcy, which cannot be avoided by afterwards appearing in public and paying the bill before five o'clock of that day⁴. So if a commission has been issued against a party to a bill, and he afterwards compromises with the petitioning creditor by paying a part of the debt, this will in itself constitute an act of bankruptcy⁵; and though stopping payment is not of itself an act of bankruptcy, the statutes which protect payments and other transactions taking place after a secret act of bankruptcy, expressly provide that stopping payment shall be equivalent to notice of the act of bankruptcy⁶; but the mere circumstance of a person's renewing a bill is not deemed stopping payment or notice of insolvency⁷.

¹ Hankey v. Jones, Cowp. 745.—1 Mont. 26.—Cullen, 18.—Cook, 60, 1.—Harrison v. Harrison, 2 Esp. Rep. 555.

² See the statutes, Cooke, 84.

³ Cullen, 65.—Anonymous, 1 Campb. 492. (n).

⁴ Colkett v. Freeman, 2 T. R. 59.—Mucklow v. May, 1 Taunt, 479.—Ex parte Levy, 7 Vin. 61. pl. 14.

⁵ Ex parte Gedge, 3 Ves. jun. 349.—Cullen, 57.

⁶ 46 Geo. 3. c. 135. s. 3. 49 Geo. 3. c. 121.

⁷ 1 Campb. 492.

III. OF A PETITIONING CREDITOR IN RESPECT OF A BILL.

With respect to the petitioning creditor's debt ; when the bill or note is completely due and payable before the act of bankruptcy, his right to strike a docquet stands precisely in the same situation as that of other demands completely due. But with respect to bills and other negotiable securities not due at the time of the act of bankruptcy, the holder stands in a different situation. The date of a promissory note made by a bankrupt, is *prima facie* evidence to shew that the note existed before the bankruptcy ; but no declaration by the bankrupt, subsequent to his bankruptcy, would be admissible to prove the fact¹. But if two persons exchange acceptances, and before the bills are mature, one of them commits an act of bankruptcy, there is not such a debt due from him to the other, as will sustain a commission².

3. Petitioning creditor's debt.

The 7 Geo. 1. c. 31³; enables persons, who have given credit on bills, bonds, promissory notes, or other personal securities, not due at the time of the act of bankruptcy, to *prove* the same under a commission, deducting a rebate of interest at £5 per cent ; however, the 3d section enacted, “ That no such creditor
“ shall be deemed or taken to be a sufficient creditor
“ for or in respect of such debt, to petition, or join
“ in any petition, for the obtaining, or suing forth
“ any commission of bankruptcy, until such time as
“ such debt shall become actually due and payable.” But the statute 5 Geo. 2. c. 30. s. 22. reciting that this last restriction has been found to be inconvenient, enacts, “ That persons taking bills, bonds, promissory
“ notes, or other personal security for their money,
“ payable at a future day, may petition for, or join in
“ petitioning for, any commission of bankruptcy.”

¹ Taylor v. Kinlock, 1 Stark. 175. 179.—2 Rose, 474.

² Garratt v. Austin, 4 Taunt. 200. 208.—2 Rose, 112.

³ See the statute in the Appendix ; and as to the words “ give credit”, see Lord Ellenborough's observation in Stacey v. Barnes, 7 East. 441.

3. Petitioning creditor's debt.

Since this statute, if a bill be accepted before the act of bankruptcy, though it be not then payable, the holder may issue a commission against the acceptor¹; and as a bill, although not due at the time of the bankruptcy of the drawer or indorser, may be proved under a commission against them², it should seem, that since the Statute 5 Geo. 2. c. 30. s. 22. a commission might also be issued against such parties³; but it has recently been doubted, *at nisi prius*, whether a bill of exchange is a good petitioning creditors debt against the *drawer* before it becomes due, or has been dishonoured by the acceptor⁴.

It was recently determined⁵, that a bill of exchange to the precise amount of £100, drawn and issued by a trader, before an act of bankruptcy, but becoming due afterwards, is sufficient, when due, to found a petition for a commission of bankrupt against him, though, allowing a rebate of interest, there was not at the time of the act of bankruptcy a debt of £100.

A creditor, by a bill or note, made by the bankrupt before an act of bankruptcy, but not *indorsed* to the holder till after, is allowed to be a petitioning creditor; for this is a case in which the law allows the assignment of a chose in action, and the assignment relates to the original debt, and the assignee stands in the original creditor's place⁶. For the same reason, a creditor may, to a debt due to himself before, tack a note of the bankrupt, indorsed to him after the bankruptcy, to make up the sum required by the statute: it being sufficient within the words of the statute, that there is an existing debt (of the requi-

¹ 1 Mont. 44.—Cullen, 74.

² *Macarty v. Barrow*, 2 Str. 949.—3 Wils. 16. S. C.—*Ex parte Adney*, Cowp. 460.—1 Mont. 150.—Cullen, 98.—Bayl. 193, 4.

³ *Starey v. Barnes*, 7 East. 435.

⁴ *Rose v. Rowcroft*, 4 Campb. 245.

⁵ *Brett v. Levett*, 13 East. 213.—Bayl. 193. n. 3.—1 Rose, 112.

⁶ *Ex parte Thomas*, 1 Atk. 73.—*Anon.* 2 Wils. 135.—*Bingley v. Maddison*, Co. B. L. 19.—Cullen, 74.—1 Mont. 43. 46.—4 Campb. 246. in notes.—Bayl. 194, 5.

site amount) in the person of the petitioning creditor ^{3. Petitioning creditor's debt.} at the time he petitions¹. It must be proved, however, in order to support the commission, that the bill was endorsed by the bankrupt to the petitioning creditor before the suing out of the commission².

The holder of a bill or note to the amount of £100, or upwards, though he may have bought it for less, is a creditor for the full sum, and may issue a commission³. But these statutes only enable creditors upon *written* securities to issue a commission, and do not enable a creditor, for goods sold on credit not elapsed, to strike a docquet, although the agreement were, that the goods should be paid for by a present bill payable at a future day⁴. And these statutes do not affect bills of exchange or other securities given or indorsed *after* the act of bankruptcy, on which the *commission is founded*, in respect of which a person cannot in general be a petitioning creditor⁵; and though the 46 Geo. 3. c. 135. s. 2. enables persons to *prove* debts, contracted after a secret act of bankruptcy, and before the commission, yet it does not authorize a creditor to strike a docquet in respect of such a debt⁶.

But when a good petitioning creditor's debt, and an act of bankruptcy subsequent to it has been proved, it is not sufficient, in order to invalidate a commission founded on it, to prove a prior act of bankruptcy, without also proving a prior debt, sufficient to sustain a commission; and it is not competent for the bankrupt himself to set up a former act of bank-

¹ *Glaister v. Hewer*, 7 T. R. 498.—*Cooke*, 20.—*Cullen*, 75.—1 Mont. 48.

² *Rose v. Rowcroft*, 4 Campb. 245.

³ *Ex parte Lee*, 1 P. Wms. 783.—*Ex parte Marlar*, 1 Atk. 150.—1 Mont. 48.

⁴ *Hoskins v. Duperoy*, 9 East. 498.—*Cothay v. Murray*, 1 Campb. 335.

⁵ *Moss v. Smith*, 1 Campb. 489, 490 —*Cullen*, 73.—1 Mont. 40, 41.; but see the validity of all contracts entered into after a secret act of bankruptcy, more than two calendar months before the date of the commission, 46 Geo. 3. c. 135.—*Bayl.* 195, 6.

⁶ *Moss v. Smith*, 1 Campb. 489.

3. Petitioning
creditor's debt.

ruptcy, in order to invalidate his commission'. And if a creditor take a bill after an act of bankruptcy, for a debt contracted before, drawn by the bankrupt upon one who had no effects in his hands at the time, or previous to the bill's becoming due, the original debt is not extinguished by want of notice to the drawer, of the bill's having been dishonoured, and is sufficient to support a commission. Want of notice, though in general tantamount to payment, is not so in this case; for having no effects in the drawee's hands, he cannot be injured'. And it has even been held, that if, after committing a secret act of bankruptcy, a trader gives to his creditor a bond for a debt, due on simple contract before the act of bankruptcy, it does not so far extinguish the simple-contract debt, as to deprive the creditor of his right to petition'. Where, however, the laches, or conduct of the holder, have deprived him of his remedy at law against the trader, who has committed an act of bankruptcy, it will be equally incompetent to him to strike a docquet. And in general, if the commission be against the *drawer* or *indorser* of a bill, it must be proved that he had due notice of non-payment, the same as in an action, but proof that after an act of bankruptcy, he admitted that he knew the bill would not be paid, will suffice'.

It was held in the case of *Man v. Shepherd*¹, that if a creditor, knowing that his debtor has committed an act of bankruptcy, receive part of his debt, the payment is void, and the original debt remains in force, and will support a commission, founded on the petition of such creditor. But a debt which could not be recovered in an action, in consequence of a

¹ *The King v. Bullock*, 1 Taunt. 71.—Bayl. 195, 6.

² *Bickerdike v. Bollman*, 1 T. R. 405.—Cullen, 75.

³ *Ambrose v. Clendon*, 2 Stra. 1943.—*Daw v. Holdsworth*, Peake, 64.—Cullen, 75.—1 Mont. 41 to 44.

⁴ *Brett v. Levett*, 13 East. 213.—1 Rose, 103. n. a.

⁵ 6 T. R. 79.—Cullen, 69.—1 Mont. 35.

plea of the Statute of Limitations, nor in equity by analogy to it, will not *be sufficient to support a commission*, or be proveable under it'. And in general, whatever objection would preclude the holder of a bill from recovering at law, or in equity, will equally preclude him from issuing a commission of bankruptcy; for, as observed by Lord Chancellor Eldon, in the case *Ex parte Dewdney*, "The meaning of the legislature in the bankrupt acts, requiring the Lord Chancellor to give execution to all the creditors, was, that this species of execution should be given to those creditors who, if a commission had not issued, could by legal or equitable remedies have compelled payment." Hence, it is necessary in considering when a person may strike a docquet, or prove in respect of a bill of exchange, to keep in view the rules which have been stated in the previous part of this work, as well as those more particularly relating to this part of the subject.

3. Petitioning creditor's debt.

When the debt, in respect of which the docquet is to be struck, is due to *several persons*, whether as general partners or otherwise, they must all be petitioning creditors, and a commission, founded upon the petition of one of such creditors, could not be supported¹; the proceedings under a commission being analogous in this respect to an action². But it is not necessary that all the partners should join in the affidavit of the debt. It will suffice, if one of them swear that the debt is due to himself and partners³.

The petitioning creditor is considered as having determined his election by taking out a commission,

¹ *Ex parte Dewdney*, 15 Ves. jun. 479. and 498. acc.; but see 1 Cooke, 15. *contra*.—15 Ves. jun. 495. If bankrupt don't object no one else can. See 5 Burr. 2638.—1 Mont. 38.—15 Ves. jun. 491. 3, 4.

² *Buckland v. Newsome*, 1 Taunt. 477.—1 Campb. 474. S. C.

³ 1 Saund. 153. n. 1. 291. f. g.—2 Stra. 820.—1 Bos. & Pul. 73.

⁴ 2 Cooke, 1.—4 Mont. 14. note b. vide Form of Affidavit, post, Appendix.

3. Petitioning creditor's debt. and is not allowed afterwards to proceed at law, though for a demand which is alleged to be distinct from that on which he sued out the commission¹.

IV. OF THE PROOF OF BILLS UNDER A COMMISSION.

4. Proof of bills. Previously to the statute 7 Geo. 1. c. 31. no debt, unless it were completely due, and payable at the *time of the act* of bankruptcy could be proved, though it became due before the issuing of the commission². This statute contains the following recital and enactments :—

“Whereas merchants and other traders in goods
 “have been very often obliged, and more especially
 “of late years, to sell or dispose of their goods and
 “merchandizes to such persons as have occasion for
 “the same, upon trust or credit, and to take bills,
 “bonds, promissory notes, or other personal securities
 “for their moneys, payable at the end of three,
 “four, or six months, or other future days of pay-
 “ment; and the buyers of such goods becoming
 “bankrupts, and commissions of bankruptcy being
 “taken out against them, before the money upon
 “such bonds, notes, or other securities became pay-
 “able, it hath been a question whether such persons,
 “giving such credit on such securities, should be let
 “in to prove their debts, or be admitted to have any
 “dividend, or other benefit by the commission, be-
 “fore such time as such securities became payable,
 “which hath been a great discouragement to trade,
 “and great prejudice to credit within this realm;
 for remedy whereof, *it is enacted*, “That all and
 “every person and persons, who have given credit,
 “or at any time or times hereafter, shall *give credit*

¹ Ex parte Lewis, 1 Atk. 154.—Ex parte Callow, 3 Ves. jun. 1.—Ex parte Ward, 1 Atk. 153.—Cullen, 154.—Cooke, 25.

² Barnford v. Burrell, 2 Bos. & Pul. 1.

³ The statute says, “persons,” but this is a mistake, see 5 Geo. 2. c. 30. s. 22.

“ on such *securities* as aforesaid, to any person or per- 4. Proof of bills.
 “ sons, who is, are, or shall become bankrupts, upon
 “ a good and valuable consideration, *bonâ fide*, for
 “ any sum or sums of money, *or other matter or*
 “ *thing whatsoever*, which is or shall not be due or
 “ payable at or before the time of such person’s be-
 “ coming bankrupt, shall be admitted to prove his,
 “ her, and their several and respective bills, bonds,
 “ notes, or other securities, promise, or agreements
 “ for the same, in like manner as if they were made
 “ payable presently, and not at a future day; and shall
 “ be entitled unto, and shall have and receive a pro-
 “ portionable part, share, and dividend, of such bank-
 “ rupt’s estate, in proportion to the other creditors of
 “ such bankrupt, deducting only thereout *a rebate*
 “ *of interest*, and discounting such securities, payable
 “ at future times, after the rate of five pounds per
 “ centum per annum, for what he shall so receive, to
 “ be computed from the actual payment thereof, to
 “ the time such debt, duty, or sum of money, should
 “ or would have become due and payable, in and by
 “ such securities as aforesaid.” *In the second section*
it is enacted, “ That all and every person or persons,
 “ who now are, or shall become bankrupts, shall be
 “ discharged of and from all and every such bond,
 “ note, or other security as aforesaid; and shall have
 “ the benefit of the several statutes now in force
 “ against bankrupts, in like manner, to all intents and
 “ purposes, as if such sum of money had been due
 “ and payable before the time of his becoming a
 “ bankrupt.”

The subsequent statute, 5 Geo. 2. c. 30. s. 22. is considered as a legislative construction of the 7 Geo. 1. c. 31. and to confine that statute to *written securities*’. But it is provided by the 49 Geo. 3.

¹ *Hoskins v. Duperoy*, 9 East. 503. and *Parslow v. Dearlove*, 4 East. 438. These cases settle the point doubted in *Cullen*, 74. and 1 Mont. 45.

4. Proof of bills. c. 121. s. 9. " That all persons who have given credit
 " to any person who shall become bankrupt, upon
 " good and valuable consideration for any money
 " whatever, which shall not be due or payable at or
 " before the time of such person's becoming bankrupt,
 " shall be admitted to prove such their debts, as if the
 " same were payable presently, or not at a future day;
 " and shall be entitled to, and shall have and receive
 " proportional dividends, equally with the other cre-
 " ditors, deducting, in England, £5 per cent., and in
 " Ireland, £6 per cent. interest, to be computed from
 " the actual payment, to the time such debts would
 " become payable, according to the terms upon which
 " the same were contracted."

Upon these statutes, the proof of a bill of exchange under a commission, may be considered under the following heads :—

- 1st, What bill, note, &c. may be proved.*
- 2d, Who may prove.*
- 3d, Against whom, or under what commission.*
- 4th, For what sums, or to what extent, the proof may be made.*
- 5th, The time of proof, and of claims.*
- 6th, The mode and terms of proof, and remedy for the dividend.*
- 7th, The consequence of not proving, and effect of certificate.*

1st, What Bills are proveable.

1st. What bills proveable,

From the judgment of Lord Eldon, in the case *Ex parte Dewdney*¹, it may be collected, that wherever a bill of exchange, or other negotiable security, would be valid at law, so as to support an action, it may be proved under a commission; and, on the other hand, it appears to be a general rule, that a bill, not available at law or in equity, cannot be proved under a com-

¹ *Ex parte Dewdney*, 15 Ves. jun. 495. — *Ex parte Mumford*, 15 Ves. jun. 289. and Bayl. 191.

mission. A bill founded upon an usurious gaming, or other *consideration*, rendering it void by some statute, cannot be proved, even by a *bonâ fide* holder¹: and whenever the holder himself has received the bill upon any illegal contract, he cannot, in general, prove such bill in respect of such consideration²; and the assignees and creditors have a right to insist, that the whole security is void, and unless they submit to pay what is really due, the court cannot order it, and frequent applications of that sort have been refused³.

1st. What bills
proveable.

In *Ex parte Bulmer*⁴, where promissory notes, given by a stock-broker for the balance of an account of money advanced to him to be employed in stock-jobbing transactions, contrary to the Stock Jobbing Act, and part of the consideration consisted of the profits upon those transactions, and the residue for money received, which he had applied to his own use, Lord Erskine would not permit the petitioner to prove the promissory notes as binding obligations, as the consideration for them was made up, though in a very small part, of the fruit of the illegal use of the money lodged with the bankrupt, but allowed the petitioner to prove the sum applied by the bankrupt to his own use, as money had and received.

Where the consideration of the bill consisted of two parts, one bad and the other good, and no statute declares that the bill, under such circumstances, shall be absolutely void, the rule in equity, as well as in bankruptcy, is, that the security shall avail as to what was good. And, therefore, where a broker, having been employed to effect some insurances, one of which was illegal, (being on a voyage from Ostend to the East Indies,) the principal, in consideration of the

¹ *Ex parte Skip*, 2 Ves. jun. 489.—*Ex parte Mather*, 3 Ves. jun. 373.—*Ex parte Mogridge*, Cooke, 233.

² Ante, 88 to 115. as to illegality of consideration in general.

³ Per Lord Hardwicke, in *Ex parte Skip*, 2 Ves. jun. 489.—Cullen, 89.—9 Ves. jun. 84.

⁴ 13 Ves. jun. 313. and 320.

1st. What bills
proveable.

money laid out in effecting them, indorsed to him a bill drawn by himself, and payable to his own order, upon, and accepted by a person, who afterwards became a bankrupt; the broker (the indorsee) was not allowed to prove under the commission issued against the acceptor, in respect of such part of the debt as arose on the illegal insurance; but it was held, he might prove for the rest on the bill itself¹. Where there has been an antecedent legal debt, and a bill is afterwards taken, but which turns out to be invalid, on account of usury, or otherwise, the demand for the antecedent debt may be resorted to and proved².

In regard to the *form* of the bill, or the *mode* of acceptance, or transfer, the same objections which would in general preclude the holder of a bill from suing at law, would equally prevent him from proving under a commission. A bill or note, payable at a certain time, or on demand, is proveable, though the demand be not made till after the act of bankruptcy³. Thus, if a bill or note be payable on a contingency, it cannot be proved⁴. So with regard to the acceptance, it must be of such a nature, that the party might have supported an action. We have seen, that in the case of *Ex parte Dyer*⁵, it was held, that a letter, undertaking to accept bills already drawn, is an acceptance, and that the bills may be proved as accepted. The indorsement also is governed by the same rules in bankruptcy, as in an action, and therefore, in *re Barrington v. Burton*⁶, where B. handed over a negotiable note, for valuable consideration,

¹ *Ex parte Mather*, 3 Ves. jun. 373.—Cullen, 89.—1 Mont. 115.

² *Ex parte Blackburne*, 10 Ves. jun. 206.—*Ferrall v. Shaen and others*, 1 Saund. 295.—3 Campb. 119.—2 Taunt. 184.

³ *Ex parte Beaufoy*, Co. B. L. 159.

⁴ *Ex parte Adney*, Cowp. 460.—*Ex parte Tootell*, 4 Ves. jun. 572. *Ex parte Minet*, 14 Ves. jun. 189.—*Ex parte Barker*, 9 Ves. jun. 110.—In *re Barrington*, 2 Scho. & Lef. 112.—1 Mont. 127. n. c.—Instances of contingencies, see ante, 55 to 64.

⁵ 6 Ves. jun. 9.—Ante, 230.

⁶ 2 Scho. & Lef. 112.—And see *Ex parte Harrison*, 2 Bro. 615.—Cooke, 209.

to G. not indorsing it, but giving a written acknowledgment on a separate paper, to be accountable for the note to G., and G. indorsed the note, which, together with the written acknowledgment, came into the hands of M. for valuable consideration, and B. and the several parties to the note, became bankrupts, it was held that M. could not prove the note against the estate of B., the written acknowledgment not being assignable, but was entitled to have the amount made an item in the account between B. and G. and to stand in the place of the latter¹. So a written undertaking, guaranteeing the payment of a note of a third person, not due at the time of the act of bankruptcy, is not a debt proveable².

1st. What bills proveable.

Bills made payable to fictitious payees may be proved by the indorsees for a valuable consideration against the acceptor, or any party who knew at the time that the payee was a fictitious person³. And where a party, who has become bankrupt, has transferred a bill, but has by mistake omitted to indorse it, he or his assignees may be compelled to indorse, so as to enable the holder to prove⁴. A bill which has been lost before or after it is due, may be proved, upon the parties giving a sufficient indemnity to the satisfaction of the commissioners⁵. But wherever the holder of a bill has been guilty of such laches or conduct, as would discharge the party at law, supposing he had continued solvent, they will equally preclude the holder from proving under a commission against him⁶.

¹ Ante, 187.—Cullen, 100, 111.—1 Mont. 142. 149, 150.

² Ex parte Adney, Cowp. 460.

³ Bennett v. Farnell, 1 Campb. 180. 130.—Ante, 84. n. 8.—Ex parte Clark, 3 Bro. 238.—and Ex parte Allen, Co. B. L. 172. — 1 Mont. 145.

⁴ Ex parte Greening, 13 Ves. jun. 206.—Ante, 150.—Cullen, 100, 111. — 1 Mont. 142. — Smith v. Pickering, Peake, C. N. P. 50. — 3 Bos. & Pul. 40.

⁵ Ex parte Greenway, 6 Ves. jun. 812. See further as to lost bills, ante, 190 to 204.

⁶ Ex parte Wilson, 11 Ves. jun. 410.—Ante, 256. 554—Cullen, 99, 100.—Cooke, 167, 8, 9.

1st. What bills
proveable.

And where the remedy on the bill may have been extinguished at law or in equity by the Statute of Limitations, the holder will not be allowed to prove under a commission¹.

Where a bill has been paid or considered as cancelled or settled by another bill, it cannot be proved. But bills in lieu of which other bills are given, if permitted to remain with the holder, may be proved, in the event of the latter bills not being paid².

2dly, Who may prove.

2d. Who may
prove.

With respect to the *person who may prove* a bill, we will consider first, the proof by a person, who being the holder, gave value for it at the time he became so; and secondly, the proof by a person who did not originally give value for the bill, but has since been compelled to pay it.

First, The bona fide holder of a bill or note, made *originally for a valuable consideration*, may prove for the whole sum contained in it, either against the acceptor, the drawer, or indorsers, whether the bill was due or not at the time of the act of bankruptcy³; but he must be holder for his own use, not as trustee for another, indebted to the estate⁴. And when a bill or note is drawn before, but indorsed after the secret act of bankruptcy of the acceptor to another person, the indorsee, though he cannot *set off* the amount of the sum payable to any demand on him by the assignees, because the statute 5 Geo. 2. c. 30. relates only to mutual debts due before the bankruptcy⁵; yet he may be a petitioning creditor for the amount, or

¹ Ex parte Dewdney, 15 Ves. jun. 479.—Ante, 554, 5.

² Ex parte Barclay, 7 Ves. jun. 597.

³ 7 Geo. 1. c. 31.—Ante, 556.—Starey v. Barnes, 7 East. 435.

⁴ Fair v. M'Iver, 16 East. 139, 140.

⁵ Cooke, 567.—Marsh v. Chambers, 2 Stra. 1234.—Grove v. Dubois, 1 T. R. 114.—Dickson v. Evans, 6 T. R. 57.—Ex parte Hale, 3 Ves. jun. 304.—Hankey v. Smith, 3 T. R. 507. n. s. — Cullen, 205. 74.—1 Montague, 543.

prove it under the commission, because he stands in the place of the person from whom he received the instrument; and the debt is not created by the indorsement, but by the acceptance of the bill, or making of the note¹; nor will the circumstance of a note being indorsed after it was due make any difference². And if an indorser or drawer of a bill for a valuable consideration, take up and pay the whole bill, after the bankruptcy of the acceptor, or of any other party liable to him on the bill, and the bill has not been proved by some previous holder, under the commission against such acceptor or other party, such indorser or drawer is entitled to prove it under the commission against the acceptor or such other party³; and it has even been decided, that where the bankrupt had accepted a bill for the accommodation of the drawer, and the indorser had indorsed the bill also for the accommodation of such drawer, and had paid it after the bankruptcy, he might prove it under the commission against such acceptor⁴. So in the case, *Ex parte Hale*⁵, it was decided, that the acceptor becoming bankrupt, and the petitioner, having indorsed it before the bankruptcy, took up the bill, he might prove, though he could not set off a debt due from him to the estate. And it has been decided, that if an acceptor for the honour of the drawer, after the bankruptcy of the original acceptor, pay the bill, he may prove it under the commission against such

2d. Who may prove.

¹ *Ex parte Brymer*, Cooke, 164, 5.—1 Mont. 48.—Cooke, 19, 164, 5.—Cites *Ex parte Thomas*, 1 Atk. 73.—Anon. 2 Wils. 195.—*Et vid.* *Toms v. Mlyton*, 2 Stra. 744. n. 1.—*Glaister v. Hewer*, 7 T. R. 499, 500.—3 Bos. & Pul. 395.—Sec 46 Geo. 3. c. 135. s. 5.

² *Bingley v. Maddison*, K. B. Mich. Term, 1783.—Cooke, 19.—7 T. R. 570. S. C.

³ *Joseph v. Orme*, 2 New Rep. 180.—*Buckler v. Buttivant*, 3 East. 72.—*Ex parte Brymer*, Co. B. L. 164.—*Ex parte Seddon*, cited 7 T. R. 563.—*Howle v. Baxter*, 3 East. 177.—And see 1 Mont. 147. n. k.—*Cullen*, 98. n. 36.—*Bayl.* 197.—1 Rose, 20.

⁴ *Howle v. Baxter*, 3 East. 177.—1 Mont. 152. but quære. See the cases post, as to a party to an accommodation bill.

⁵ 3 Ves. jun. 304.

2d. Who may
prove.

original acceptor¹. But this doctrine was over-ruled in the case *Ex parte Lambert*², in which it was decided, that such acceptor *supra* protest, cannot prove under the commission against the original acceptor, where the latter had received no consideration from the drawer.

If the holder of a bill prove it, and receive dividends under the commission against the acceptor, and also under a commission against another party, the assignees of the latter cannot prove under the commission against the acceptor the amount of the dividends so paid by them. Upon this point all the Judges agreed, in the case of *Cowley v. Dunlop*³, for the same debt cannot be proved twice under the same commission, and there is no hardship upon the indorser, whose estate has also been compelled to pay a dividend, because it cannot exceed the deficiency of the amount of the bill, beyond the dividend paid by the acceptor, and such deficiency would be the very sum which the indorser would have lost, had he been the holder of the bill.

With respect to an *accommodation* bill, or a bill where one of the parties may have subscribed his name without having received any value, many difficulties very frequently arise as to the right of the parties to prove. A party who has *bonâ fide* given a valuable consideration for such a bill, we have seen, is not affected by the want of consideration between other parties⁴, and consequently may prove under a commission against such other parties⁵. But a party who has not given value for the bill, but has, since the act of bankruptcy been obliged to take it up, frequently stands in a different situation, and in many cases has been considered as unable to prove under

¹ *Ex parte Wackerbarth*, 5 Ves. jun. 574.

² 13 Ves. jun. 179.

³ 7 T. R. 565.—1 Mont. 148. note *o*.

⁴ *Ante*, 88 to 95.—*Ex parte Rushforth*, 10 Ves. jun. 416, 7.

⁵ Cullen, 97.

the commission, on the ground that he is not clothed with the rights of the *bonâ fide* holder, nor can justly swear that the bankrupt was indebted to him at the time of his bankruptcy. The rules upon this subject may be arranged under the following heads:—

2d. Who may prove.

I. Where there is cross paper between the parties to the accommodation.

II. Where the accommodating party has taken a security.

III. Where the accommodating party has no security.

1st, When he has paid before the bankruptcy.

2d, When he has not paid.

3d, When he may compel the holder to prove.

4th, When he may prove under the Stat. 49 Geo. 3.

c. 121. s. 8.

First, If a bill of exchange or promissory note, be given either in consideration of another bill or note, the consideration is valid, and the holder may prove it under a commission of bankruptcy¹; and whether in an exchange of bills, one bill were transferred in consideration of the other, it must be determined by the particular circumstances of each case². The bills need not be payable at the same time³, but any variation in the times of payment of the respective bills, is evidence, whether the parties did or did not transfer the bills in consideration of each other; nor need the bills be for the same sums, but any variation, is evidence, whether the parties did or did not transfer the bills in consideration of each other⁴. And it seems,

1. Cross bills.

¹ *Ex parte Maydwell*, and *Ex parte Beaufoy*, Cooke, 159.—*Ex parte Clanricarde*, Cooke, 162.—*Rolfe v. Caslon*, 2 Hen. Bla. 570, *Cowley v. Dunlop*, 7 T. R. 565.—*Buckler v. Buttivant*, 3 East. 72. 1 Mont. 138.

² *Vid.* judgment of Lord Ellenborough in *Buckler v. Buttivant*, 3 East. 72.—1 Mont. 138. As to distinction between cross bills and reciprocal accommodation, see Bayl. 201.—May prove, but cannot issue commission, Bayl. 203. n. 2.—4 Taunt. 200.

³ *Ex parte Maydwell*, Cooke, 159.—*Buckler v. Buttivant*, 3 East. 73.—1 Mont. 138.

⁴ *Buckler v. Buttivant*, 3 East. 72.—*Ex parte Lee*, 1 P. Wms. 782, 1 Mont. 839.

2d. Who may prove.

1. Cross bills.

that an agreement by each party to pay his own acceptance, is conclusive evidence that the bills were given in consideration of each other¹. The consideration of the bill, for this purpose, may be an acceptance of the party to whom it is transferred², or the acceptance of another person³, or a promissory note⁴.

There is a *material* difference, however, between the right of such a party to a bill to prove it, and that of a person who has actually advanced a valuable consideration for a bill. The latter is entitled, without qualification, to prove and receive a dividend immediately in equal proportion with the other creditors⁵. But the former, though he is entitled to prove the cross bill before he has taken up his own⁶, yet the dividends will be withheld until the account relative to the cross bill is finally settled and adjusted⁷.

A person, who has accepted a bill in consideration of the drawer's accepting a cross bill, and where it is understood that each party shall pay his own acceptances, cannot prove under a commission against such drawer any payment made on his own acceptance, either before or after the bankruptcy of the drawer, there being no implied contract of indemnity in the case of such cross acceptances; but each party is considered as looking to the liquidation of his claim on the other, *by the bill* which he took in lieu

¹ Cowley v. Dunlop, 7 T. R. 565.—Buckler v. Buttivant, 3 East. 72.—1 Mont. 139.

² See the observations of Le Blanc, J. 3 East. 84.—Cowley v. Dunlop, 7 T. R. 565.—1 Mont. 139.—Bayl. 202, 3.

³ Ex parte Clanricarde, Cooke, 162.—Buckler v. Buttivant, 3 East. 72.—1 Mont. 139.

⁴ Ex parte Maydwell, Cooke, 159.—1 Mont. 139.

⁵ Ex parte Marshall, 1 Atk. 130.—Ex parte King, Cooke, 157.—Ex parte Crosley, Cooke, 158.—Ex parte Brymer, Cooke, 164.

⁶ Ex parte Clanricarde, Cooke, 160.—Ex parte Curtis, and Ex parte Lee, Cooke, 159.—Cullen, 133, 4.—1 Mont. 139. 554.

⁷ In Cooke, 5th edition, 162., it is stated, that the surety cannot prove till he has taken up his own paper; but, in 1 Montague, 139., it is stated to be settled otherwise, though formerly doubted. But the dividends are withheld, see 4 Taunt. 204, 5.—Bayl. 204. n. 1. 205. 3 Ves. 531.

of his own, and his remedy thereon, and to those only; in which case the law will not raise any implied promise ultra the bills¹. The party as acceptor, has no remedy against the drawer, for payment of his own acceptances, because he did not accept in consideration of a promise of indemnity, but in consideration of an agreement, or rather of an actual and executed delivery of other acceptances to the same, or nearly the same amount². And consequently, in these cases of cross acceptance, the payment made by a party on his own acceptance, cannot be proved under a commission against the other acceptor, although no payment whatever has been made by the latter on his acceptance the only remedy being on the cross bill³. It has been held, that if a person become a bankrupt, and the dealings between the bankrupt and a creditor consist of cross bills, which are respectively dishonoured, and a cash account composed of payments in money, and of payments on bills duly honoured, all the dishonoured bills must be struck out on both sides, and only the cash balance be proved under the commission⁴. But if the drawer of a bill, accepted in consideration of his own acceptance, take up and pay the *whole* bill after the bankruptcy of the acceptor, and the bill has not been proved by the holder under the commission, such drawer may prove it⁵. Though if the assignees of the drawer of a bill, accepted in consideration of his own acceptance, pay dividends to the holder, *who also receives dividends under the commission against the acceptor*, the drawer cannot

2d. Who may prove.
1. Cross bills.

¹ Cowley v. Dunlop, 7 T. R. 565.—Buckler v. Buttivant, 3 East, 72.

² Per Ld. Ellenborough, Ch. J. in Buckler v. Buttivant, 3 East, 81.

³ Cowley v. Dunlop, 7 T. R. 565.—Buckler v. Buttivant, 3 East, 72.

⁴ Ex parte Walker, 4 Ves. jun. 373.—Ex parte Earle, 5 Ves. jun. 833. 1 Mont. 141. 148.; see the observations of Lawrence, J. in Buckler v. Buttivant, 3 East. 83, 84.—Cooke, 161, 2.—Bayl. 206. n. 2. 207.

⁵ Cowley v. Dunlop, 7 T. R. 565.—1 Mont. 147.—2 New R. 180.

2d. Who may prove.

1. Cross bills.

2. Surety having a security.

prove the amount of such dividends under such latter commission¹.

Secondly, Besides these cases of *cross* paper, a party to an accommodation bill frequently receives by way of *indemnity* a bill or note. If an accommodation acceptor, or other party, who puts his name to a bill without having received value, take at the same time from the principal, or party accommodated, by way of indemnification, a bill or note for a sum of money payable at a day certain, he will be allowed to prove immediately upon such counter security, though the debtor becomes a bankrupt before such counter security is payable, and before the surety himself has paid or been called upon, or even could, by the terms of his engagement, be called upon to pay to the creditor²; and this, notwithstanding the counter security has been negotiated by the party and returned to him after the bankruptcy³. It has been observed, that such a construction, however it may appear, to a common apprehension, repugnant to the real truth of the transaction, and the real justice of the case as between the parties, has been founded upon this, that such a counter security creates an absolute debt at law, for which the surety's liability is a sufficient consideration, and on which, therefore, he is entitled immediately to come in as a creditor under the commission. With a view, however, to prevent the injury which might be done to *real* creditors by allowing such constructively absolute, but really contingent creditors, to receive dividends upon debts which may never exist but *in law*, it has been thought necessary, where there are cross demands between the surety and the bankrupt upon counter paper, as it is called, and upon which, till either has actually paid, they are substantially only sureties, though nominally creditors

¹ *Cowley v. Dunlop*, 7 T. R. 565.—1 Mont. 148.

² *Ex parte Maydwell, Cooke*, 157.—2 Hen. Bla. 570. S. C.—Cullen, 133, 4.—1 Mont. 131, 132, 134, 153, 157, 158.

³ *Ex parte Seddon*, cited in 7 T. R. 570.

of each other, to suspend the dividends till it appear what the surety actually pays, and how far he exonerates the bankrupt's estate from his own paper¹.

2d. Who may prove.

2. Surety having a security.

A security of this nature must be a bill, note, or bond, payable at all events, and not a mere parol, or written undertaking to indemnify². A promissory note payable on demand, or a bill payable at all events, are sufficient securities to enable a surety to prove, though no demand has been made before the act of bankruptcy³. But if the acceptor of a bill receive from the drawer an undertaking to indemnify, or a receipt for his acceptance, as for money received, this is not such a counter security as creates a debt capable of being proved⁴. In *Ex parte Metcalfe*⁵, where *A.* and *B.* became bankrupts, the assignees of *B.* were allowed to prove under the commission against *A.*, a cash balance due from *A.* to *B.*, but the dividends were ordered to be retained to reimburse the estate of *A.* what it should be compelled to pay upon a distinct transaction, viz. a loan of bills from *A.* to *B.*, some of which had been dishonoured, so that the money, thus in the hands of *A.*, was in the nature of a cross security and indemnification against the accommodation paper. So in the case of *Willis v. Freeman*⁶, Lord Ellenborough said, that the case of *Wilkins v. Casey*⁷, has established, that if a man, who has funds in his hands belonging to a trader who has committed a secret act of bankruptcy, accept a bill for that trader without knowing of such act of bankruptcy, he may apply those funds, when the bill becomes due, to the discharge of his own acceptance,

¹ *Ex parte Curtis*, Cooke, 159.—*Ex parte Lee*, *ibid.*—Cullen, 134.

² *Vanderhayden v. De Paiba*, 3 Wils. 528. — *Chilton v. Wiffin*, 3 Wils. 13.—Cullen, 131.—1 Mont. 156.

³ *Ex parte Maydwell*, Cooke, 159.—1 Mont. 158.

⁴ *Ex parte Beaufoy*, Cooke, 159.—*Smith v. Gells*, 7 T. R. 489.—*Snaith v. Gale*, 7 T. R. 364.—Cullen, 138.—1 Mont. 157.

⁵ 11 Ves. jun. 404.—1 Campb. 12.—12 East. 659.

⁶ 12 East. 659.—*Hammond v. Barclay*, 2 East. 227.

⁷ 7 T. R. 711.

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2. Surety having a security.

though a commission of bankruptcy may have issued in the interim, and will be protected against any claims the assignees may afterwards make upon him in respect of the funds so applied.

It is not necessary, in all cases, that the security to the accommodating party should be given expressly as an indemnity. Thus it was held, in the case *Ex parte Bloxham*^{*}, that bankers, who have accepted bills for the accommodation of the bankrupt, may prove upon the bills drawn by him and remitted to them in the course of their banking account, though their acceptances were not due at the time of the bankruptcy; and it being objected, that the acceptance was not such a consideration as gave the bankers a right to prove upon the bills deposited, but not due till after the bankruptcy, and that when the banker accepted, not having bills, but bills were deposited afterwards, to indemnify him, that is not such a giving credit as falls within the statute 7 Geo. 1. c. 31., and that in *Ex parte Maydwell*, the acceptance was upon the express credit of the note, and that consequently this case was distinguishable. The Lord Chancellor said, that “in *Ex parte Maydwell*, it was held, that the “liability by the acceptance was a good consideration “for the promissory note, and the proof was permitted. “Cases occurred afterwards demonstrating some mis- “chief in that doctrine: the party proving, but not “taking up his own acceptance; and the Lord Chan- “cellor afterwards put that condition upon them, that “they should take up their acceptances. Upon this “sort of transaction, bankers accepting upon the “credit of bills remitted from the country, they must “be entitled to prove, but they should prove upon “the securities.”

Where a person has become a party to a bill or note, for the accommodation of another, and has been obliged to pay it after the bankruptcy, he may set off

^{*} 8 Ves. jun. 531.—Bayl. 205.

such payment against a debt due from him to the bankrupt at the time of his bankruptcy¹. But this is a case of mutual credit under the statute 5 Geo. 2. c. 30. which will be afterwards more fully considered.

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Thirdly, Where a person has become a party to an accommodation bill, or note, though there is neither cross paper, nor a security in his hands to indemnify him, yet, if he has paid the bill *before the act of bankruptcy* of his principal, it is proveable under the commission²; but if he has paid such bill or note *after the act of bankruptcy* of his principal, he cannot, in general, prove under a commission, unless he can avail himself of the provisions in the statute 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. s. 8. This is perfectly clear in the case of an accommodation *acceptor*, or *maker* of a note, who being the parties primarily liable, can have no remedy upon them. Thus where a person accepted a bill to accommodate the drawer; upon a parol promise by the latter to find money to take it up when due, and to save the acceptor harmless, but who did not take it up when it became due, and soon after was a bankrupt, and the acceptor, *after the bankruptcy* of the drawer, was sued upon the bill and taken in execution for the debt and costs, it was held that no debt accrued to him from the drawer, till he paid the debt and costs, or (which was the same thing as actual payment) till he rendered his body in satisfaction thereof, and this not being till after the bankruptcy could not be proved under the commission against the drawer³. And it makes no difference if, instead of a parol promise, the surety takes a promise in writing from the drawer that he will take up the bill when due⁴. The

3. Where there is no security.

¹ Ex parte Boyle, Cooke, 561.—Smith v. Hodson, 4 T. R. 211.—Atkinson v. Elliot, 7 T. R. 378.

² Cullen, 129.—1 Mont. 131. 153.—13 East. 427.

³ Chilton v. Wiffin, 3 Wilson, 13.—Young v. Hockley, Bla. Rep, 839. 3 Wilson, 346.—1 Mont. 154.—Cooke, 203, 4, 5.—2 Rose, 47.

⁴ Vanderheyden v. De Paiba, 3 Wils. 528.—Heskingson v. Woodbridge, Dougl. 166.—Cooke, 203, 4, 5. Cullen, 131.—Ante, 569.

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3. Where there is no security.

right of an *indorser* of a bill or note, who has become so merely for the accommodation of another, and has paid the bill after the bankruptcy, seems not to be perfectly settled¹. It was held in the case of *Brooks v. Rogers*² that, if the payee of a bill of exchange, not being a creditor of the *drawer*, indorse and get it discounted merely for the purpose of raising money for him, and hand the money to him, and is afterwards obliged to pay it to the indorsee, but not till after the drawer becomes a bankrupt, he cannot prove it under the drawer's commission; because no debt accrued to him from the *drawer* till the money was actually paid; which was not till after the bankruptcy. In the case of *Howis v. Wiggins*, 4 T. R. 714. where a party became payee, and indorser of a promissory note for the accommodation of the maker, who delivered it to a third person with the payee's indorsement, and afterwards became bankrupt; it was held that the payee and indorser, paying it after the bankruptcy, was not entitled to prove his debt accruing only upon payment of the note³. In the case of *Howle v. Baxter*, 3 East.

¹ The leading cases upon this point are *Brooks v. Rogers*, 1 Hen. Bla. 640.—*Howis v. Wiggins*, 4 T. R. 714, and *Howle v. Baxter*, 3 East. 177.—3 Bos. & Pul. 395.

² 1 Hen. Bla. 640.—In 1 Mont. 154. n. d. there is a question whether this case is law, and *Cowley v. Dunlop*, 7 T. R. 565, and *Buckler v. Buttivant*, 3 East. 72. are referred to; and it is suggested that the whole question is, whether the payee and drawer stood in the situation of principal and surety. In *Cowley v. Dunlop*, Lawrence, Justice, speaking of the case of *Brooks v. Rogers*, says, "I argued that case as being the case of principal and surety, and considered Brooks as lending his name to Rogers to get money on the draft of Rogers, of the Olney bank, and that, in substance, it was an advance of money to Rogers on the credit of Brooks's name as surety to the bank; but I doubt if that argument is not fallacious; for on Brooks carrying the bill to the bank, the bank lent him the amount of it on the security of the bill, on which Brooks was entitled to recover when returned to him for non-payment."

³ Mr. Montague, in Vol. 1. 155. n. e. observes on this decision "that it is a stronger case of *principal and surety* than the case of *Brooks v. Rogers*, 1 Hen. Bla. 640. above mentioned, because in *Howis v. Wiggins*, no money consideration passed between the payee and maker before the bankruptcy of the latter." And see the argument in *Howle v. Baxter*, 3 East. 177.—In *Cowley v. Dunlop*, 7 T. R. 565. Grose, J. says, "the case of *Howis v. Wiggins* came on before this court on a motion for a new trial; and possibly under a misap-

177. the bill had been accepted by the bankrupt for the accommodation of the drawer, and the plaintiff, at the request of the drawer, indorsed the bill, merely to give it additional credit, after which the drawer got it discounted, and the acceptor became bankrupt, and the plaintiff was afterwards obliged to pay the account to a bona fide holder, after which the defendant obtained his certificate, and the court said that the plaintiff contracted no liability at the defendant's request, and that he never became surety for him in this transaction, and that the plaintiff's demand against the defendant, the acceptor, arose solely upon the bill, and that there was nothing to prevent his proving it under the commission, and consequently that the bankrupt was discharged by his certificate. Where the party from being *acceptor* of the bill or *maker* of the note is *primarily* liable, and could not have any claim by virtue of the *instrument itself* upon any party to it, there seems sufficient grounds for his not being allowed to prove under the commission; because, independently of 7 Geo. 1. c. 31. no person can prove, unless he has a subsisting legal demand actually payable at the time of the act of bankruptcy¹, and there is no

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prehension of it. I considered it as a case of indemnity; and the ground on which the rule was refused was on the supposition that Vanderheyden and De Paiba was in point. I then considered how is the plaintiff, and payee of the two promissory notes, as having indorsed them as surety for the defendant, with a view to give credit to the notes, and without any consideration for his so doing. In any other way of considering that case, I think it is not to be supported." It was also observed by Lord Ellenborough, in *Buckler v. Buttivant*, 3 East. 82. "It is unnecessary to say any thing of the cases of *Brooks v. Rogers*, and *Howis v. Wiggins*, though I have a *decided opinion on the subject*: it is sufficient for the present to observe that the noble Lord by whom the former of those cases was determined, afterwards changed his opinion in the case *Ex parte Seddon*, and that the latter case has since been doubted in this court by some of the Judges in *Cowley v. Dunlop*." It is observable, however, that the case *Ex parte Seddon*, cited in 7 T. R. 570. is distinguishable from *Brooks v. Rogers*, and *Howis v. Wiggins*, for *Seddon* was not allowed to prove on his own paper, but on the note given to him in exchange for it, which rendered that case an instance of cross paper, or counter security, which (it has never been disputed) may be proved.

¹ *Paislowe v. Dearlove*, 4 East. 438.—*Hoskins v. Duperoy*, 9 East. 498.

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ground for permitting him to prove under this statute, because he being the person primarily liable to pay such bill or note cannot be considered as a person giving credit on such securities within the meaning of that statute. But a person who has *indorsed* a bill at the request of another may fairly be considered as giving credit within the meaning of the statute, which enables "any person *who shall give credit upon such securities* to any person or persons who shall become bankrupts upon a good and valuable consideration for any sum or sums of money, *or other matter or thing whatsoever*, which shall not be due at the time of the bankruptcy," to prove such bill or note. The question is whether such an accommodation indorser can be considered as a person giving credit on such securities for "money or other matter, or thing," within the meaning of the statute. Now we have seen that in the case of cross bills, the acceptance on one side is deemed a sufficient consideration for the acceptance on the other, to enable a party, liable to pay his own acceptance, to prove the acceptance of the other party under the commission of those who have become bankrupt¹, and that where there has not been an exchange of bills, yet if a bill or note, payable at all events, has been given by way of indemnity it may be proved²; and we have seen that when a bill has been taken up by an indorser for valuable consideration, although after the act of bankruptcy, he may prove under the commission³. If the acceptance of a cross bill, or the holding of a bill or note, by way of indemnity, is to be deemed a sufficient consideration to enable the party to prove the bill or note in his possession, it must be on the ground that his liability on that paper, which he himself is bound to take up, is a good and valuable consideration for "*other matter or thing*" besides money, within the meaning of the

¹ Ante, 565, &c.

² Ante, 568, 9, &c.

³ Ante, 571.

statute 7 Geo. 1. c. 31. The decision in *Howle v. Baxter*, 3 East. 177. is only sustainable upon this ground, for in that case the plaintiff had neither advanced money or credit in the way of trade before the bankruptcy, and was merely an accommodation party, who had afterwards paid the bill. It is true that the words in the preamble of the 7 Geo. 1. c. 31. afford only a presumption of an intention in the legislature to assist those merchants and traders who were obliged to sell their goods on trust or credit, and take bills and notes in payment for them. But the preamble cannot controul the express enacting words, "*for money, or for other matter, or thing whatsoever.*" There appears to be no substantial difference in this respect between a transaction where in consideration of a party's *indorsing* a bill, he receives another bill or note by way of indemnity, which it is admitted he may prove, and a transaction, in which a drawer or indorser hands over a bill or note in his possession to the same party and obtains his indorsement by way of giving credit to the instrument, without giving such cross security. In the latter case, according to the decision in *Howle v. Baxter*, 3 East. 177. the principle of which appears to over-rule the cases of *Howis v. Wiggins*, and *Brooks v. Rogers*, the transaction implies that in consideration of the accommodating party becoming so, the party accommodated gives to him all the beneficial interest which a bonâ fide indorsee can have, and when he has actually been obliged to pay the bill, though after the bankruptcy, he is entitled to

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* In 1 Co. B. L. 188. it is observed that there is a legislative construction of this very act in 5 Geo. 2. c. 30. s. 22. which, without conceiving a doubt, takes it for granted that the statute is not merely confined to securities for goods sold and delivered in the course of trade, but that it extends generally to all personal securities for a *valuable consideration*, where the time of payment is certain, though postponed to a future day, and several cases are collected to prove this position. But it is observable that the section alluded to, only mentions securities for *their money* payable at a future day, by which they are enabled to prove *their debts*. and consequently the words of the statute are less general than are supposed.

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4. Benefit of holder's proof.

prove. This question, however, is of considerable difficulty and cannot be considered as fully settled¹.

Fourthly, We have seen that a surety or party to an accommodation bill, having no absolute counter security cannot, in some cases, come in as a creditor directly, in his own right, if he has not paid till after the bankruptcy of the principal². Yet if the creditor has proved the *whole*³ debt before he called upon the surety, the court will direct that he shall stand as a trustee for the surety, and will allow the latter (or, in case he too has become a bankrupt, and his estate has paid dividends on account of the principal, will allow his assignees) to have the benefit of the principal creditors proof, and to receive dividends upon it, but so as that no more shall be paid than 20s. in the pound upon the whole debt⁴.

And a court of equity on a bill filed for that purpose, and on the surety's bringing the money into court, has ordered the creditor to go before the commissioners, and prove his debt for the benefit of the surety⁵, and stayed his proceeding at law against the surety till he had done so⁶. An accommodation ac-

¹ Cullen, 131, 132.—1 Mont. 154, 155. But see Lord Ellenborough's observations in *Buckler v. Buttivant*, 3 East, 82.

² Ante, 572, &c.

³ See the observations of Lord Eldon in *Ex parte Rushforth*, 10 Ves. jun. 420.

⁴ *Ex parte Ryswiche*, 2 P. W. 89.—*Ex parte Marshall*, 1 Atk. 129.—*Ex parte Atkinson*, Cooke, 210.—Cullen, 156.—1 Mont. 135, 138, 9.

⁵ *Wright v. Simpson*, 6 Ves. jun. 734.—*Ex parte Atkinson*, Cooke, 210.—*Beardmore v. Cruttenden*, Cooke, 211.—Cullen, 156.—1 Mont. 135, 159.—*Ex parte Rushforth*, 10 Ves. jun. 412, 414.

⁶ *Philips v. Smith*, Cooke, 211.—Cullen, 156. Mr. Cullen, in his work, p. 156. n. 55. says, "Is this to be considered as established, that sureties, having merely conditional securities, and not paying till after the bankruptcy, may come in place of the creditor, and receive dividends? Are they to be so favoured beyond all other creditors, and without relief to the bankrupt? For such sureties may still, after receiving under the commission, recover the residue of their debt against the bankrupt afterwards, they not being barred by his "certificate." The stat. 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. s. 8. precludes a surety who can prove, as there pointed out, from suing the bankrupt when he has obtained his certificate, and, in effect, prevents him from receiving a greater dividend than any other creditor, see post, 580. The argument, therefore, in *Paley v. Field*, 14 Ves. jun. 437, 438. is no longer material.

ceptor is entitled to the same benefit of proof¹. And where the surety, previous to the proof by the creditor under the commission against the principal, had lodged the amount of the debt with a banker in trust for the creditor, the surety has been permitted to retake the money for the purpose of enabling the creditor to prove against the principal². Where, however, a banker having money of the bankrupt's in his hands, paid it after notice of the act of bankruptcy, though to creditors whose debts were antecedent, and who would have been entitled to prove under the commission, yet he will not be permitted to stand in the place of those creditors so paid, and to receive dividends thereon with the other creditors³.

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In *Ex parte Mathews*⁴, it was held, that if the drawer of a bill take up and pay the whole bill, after the indorser has proved it under the commission against the acceptor, the drawer has an equitable right to the benefit of the proof made by the indorser. If the payment by the surety be after the bankruptcy of the principal, and before the creditor has proved the debt, it cannot be proved either by the creditor or by the surety. The creditor cannot, in such case, prove, because he cannot swear to any existing debt, and the surety cannot prove, because his payment is after the bankruptcy⁵. It is therefore in general advisable for an accommodation party to compel the holder of the bill to prove before he pays him the amount. When such proof has been made, and in consequence of the party proving, having afterwards received his debt from the surety, such proof has been expunged, it may, in some cases, at the instance of the surety, be reinstated for

¹ See Lord Eldon's observations in *Ex parte Rushforth*, 10 Ves. jun. 417.—*Ex parte Turner*, 3 Ves. jun. 243.

² *Ex parte Atkinson*, Cooke, 210.—1 Mont. 135.

³ *Hankey v. Vernon*, 3 Bro. 313.—Cullen, 158, 9.

⁴ 6 Ves. jun. 285. 734.—1 Mont. 147.

⁵ *Cooke*, 152.—1 Mont. 135.

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his benefit'. But the creditor cannot be turned into a trustee for the surety, to the prejudice of any right the former may have against the principal debtor's estate, on a further and distinct demand; and in such case, the surety will only be allowed such part of the dividend as will remain, after allowing out of it to the creditor, as much as will make up the proportion which he would have received, upon the residue of the debt proved beyond the debt to the surety, if this debt had been expunged'. Thus, in the case of *Ex parte Turner*¹, the petitioner had lent his name by acceptance and indorsement for the accommodation of the bankrupt, who discounted the bills so accepted and indorsed with Snaith and Co. After the bankruptcy, upon the application of Snaith and Co., the petitioner paid the full value of those bills, amounting to £815 15s. to them. They were creditors of the bankrupt to a much larger amount, and they proved their whole demand, including the amount of the bills received from the petitioner. The petitioner prayed that Snaith and Co. might assign to him the dividends due upon the proofs, in respect of the bills which he had paid. The Lord Chancellor observing that Snaith and Co. could not be turned into trustees to the prejudice of any right they might have, made the order, that Snaith and Co. should take out of the dividend upon the £815 15s. so much as would make up the proportion, which they would have received upon the residue of the debt proved beyond the £815 15s. if that debt of £815 15s. had been expunged, and the rest of the dividend upon the £815 15s. belonged to the peti-

¹ *Ex parte Mathews*, 6 Ves. jun. 285.

² *Ex parte Turner*, 3 Ves. jun. 243. see the reason in *Cullen*, 157. n. 56. and observed upon by Lord Eldon in *Ex parte Rushforth*, 10 Ves. jun. 415. 418. and in *Palczy v. Field*, 12 Ves. jun. 437. Lord Eldon appears, in *Ex parte Rushforth*, 10 Ves. jun. 418. not to have perfectly acceded to the principle of the decision in *Ex parte Turner*; see also 12 Ves. jun. 437. and it is at least qualified in the subsequent cases.

³ 3 Ves. jun. 243.

tioner; and that the dividend should remain in the hands of the assignees, till it shall appear what proportion Snaith and Co. are entitled to. But in the case of *Ex parte Rushforth*¹ this doctrine was qualified, and it was held that bankers who had proved their whole demand against the principal beyond the amount of their claim on the surety, who had guaranteed advances to that extent, were bound upon payment to them by the surety of their whole demand on him to give him the whole benefit of their proof to that extent against the principal, on the ground that it was not competent to such bankers to go on giving an enlarged credit to such principal without the concurrence of the surety, so as to prejudice his equitable right to the benefit of their proof. So, in the case of *Paley v. Field*², it was held that a surety for indemnity to a limited amount, having paid to the extent of his engagement, is intitled to dividends upon proof by the creditor under the bankruptcy of the principal debtor; subject to a deduction of the proportion of the dividend upon the residue of the debt proved beyond that for which the surety was engaged, supposing that expunged. And the Master of the Rolls said, “If, in consequence of those ulterior advances, the bankers are to keep dividends of which they would otherwise be trustees for the plaintiff, does not he contribute in effect to indemnify them for a loss, against which it is expressly provided that he shall not be called upon to indemnify them, viz. a loss occasioned by their advancing more than the sum of £1500? It is clear than as between these parties that sum is to be considered as the amount of the debt. The law, resulting from that view of the facts, is not a subject of controversy between the parties; for it is agreed upon that state-

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¹ 10 Ves. jun. 409. 422.

² 12 Ves. jun. 435.

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4. Benefit of holder's proof.

5. When a surety or person liable may prove under 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. s. 8¹.

ment, the plaintiff is entitled to the equity he seeks by his bill, to consider them as trustees for him of whatever dividends they draw from the bankrupt's estate on account of this sum of £1500." It was, however, held in the same case, that the surety is not entitled to the benefit of the proof made by the creditor against other estates upon a distinct security, with which the plaintiff had nothing to do.

Fifthly, Many of the difficulties with respect to the proof by a surety, who has no cross paper or counter security to indemnify him, are removed by the Statute 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. s. 8., which enacts, "That in all cases of commissions of bankrupt already issued, under which no dividend has yet been made, or under which the creditors, who have not proved, can receive a dividend equally in proportion to their respective debts without disturbing any dividend already made; and in all cases of commissions of bankrupts *hereafter* to be issued, where, at the time of issuing the commission, any person shall be *surety*² for, or be *liable* for any debt of the bankrupt, it shall be lawful for such surety or person liable, *if he shall have paid* the debt, or any part thereof in discharge of the *whole debt*³, although he may have paid the same after the commission shall have issued, and the creditor shall have proved his debt under the commission, *to stand in the place* of the creditor as to dividends upon such proof; and when the creditor shall not have proved under the commission, it shall be lawful for such surety or person liable, *to prove* his demand in respect of such *payment* as a debt under the commission, not

¹ See Bayl. 198. n. 1.

² In *Laxton v. Peat*, 2 Campb. 186. Lord Ellenborough considered an accommodation acceptor as in the nature of a surety for the drawer.

³ A surety who is not able to pay in time to avail himself of this clause may, it is apprehended, still avail himself of the right of compelling the holder to prove for his benefit, see *anté*, 576, 7, &c. *sed quære*.

“ *disturbing* the former dividends¹, and to receive a
 “ dividend or dividends proportionably with the other
 “ creditors, taking the benefit of such commission,
 “ notwithstanding such person may have become surety
 “ or liable for the debt of the bankrupt after an act of
 “ bankruptcy had been committed by such bankrupt;
 “ provided that such person had not, at the time when
 “ he became such surety, or when he so became liable
 “ for the debt of such bankrupt, notice of any act of
 “ bankruptcy by such bankrupt committed, or that
 “ he was *insolvent*², or had stopped payment; pro-
 “ vided always that the issuing a commission of bank-
 “ rupt, although such commission shall afterwards be
 “ superseded, shall be deemed such notice. And every
 “ person against whom any such commission of bank-
 “ rupt has been, or shall be awarded, and who has
 “ obtained, or shall obtain *his certificate*, shall *be dis-*
 “ *charged* of all demands at the suit of every such
 “ person having so paid, or being *hercby enabled* to
 “ prove as aforesaid, or to stand in the place of such
 “ creditor as aforesaid, in regard to his debt, in re-
 “ spect of such suretyship or liability *in like manner*,
 “ to all intents and purposes³, as if such person had
 “ been a creditor before the bankruptcy of the bank-
 “ rupt, for the whole of the debt in respect of which
 “ he was surety, or was so liable as aforesaid.”

2d. Who may prove.

5. When surety may prove under 49 Geo. 3. c. 121.

Upon this statute it has been decided that an accommodation acceptor is a person liable for the debt of the bankrupt drawer, and may prove under his commission⁴, and if an acceptance for the *accommodation* of the drawer of a bill be given before, and renewed after he has committed an act of bankruptcy, such re-

¹ This means not compelling the creditors to *refund* any part of the dividends received. A point was made in 12 East. 664, but not determined. 1 Sch. & Lef. 242.

² Means a general insolvency, &c. 1 Campb. 492. in notes.

³ Under these words it has been held that the bankrupt, if sued, must nevertheless plead his certificate, and cannot give it in evidence under the general issue, *Stedman v. Martinnant*, 12 East. 664.

⁴ *Ex parte Yonge*, 3 Ves. & B. 40. and see next note.

2d. Who may prove.

3. When surety may prove under 49 Geo. 3. c. 121.

newal is a continuation of the same suretyship; and therefore if a commission of bankruptcy be issued against the drawer, and the accommodation acceptor afterwards pay the bill, he will be entitled to prove the amount under such commission; though, before the renewal of the acceptance he had notice of such act of bankruptcy having been committed¹. Nor will the case be varied in principle, by the circumstance of the holder of the first bill having, before the renewal, given time to the drawer; or by that of an additional name, as that of an indorser having been lent upon the second bill².

And it has been decided, that if an accommodation acceptor having paid the bill, afterwards sues the drawer as for money paid, and having obtained judgment, assigns the judgment debt to a third person, such assignee of the debt may prove the original debt

¹ *Stedman v. Martinnant*, 13 East. Rep. 127.—12 East. Rep. 664. S. C. On the 5th of January, 1807, the plaintiff accepted a bill for the accommodation of the defendant the drawer, which became due on the 19th March, when it was dishonoured. On the 18th March, 1807, a docket was struck against the defendant, and on the 21st, a commission of bankrupt was issued, which was superseded on the 15th of April. A meeting of the defendant's creditors was then held, when time was given him to pay his debts by instalments. On the 9th of June, 1807, the plaintiff accepted a second bill for the defendant, in order to take up the former one, for the same sum with the addition of interest and stamp; and the indorsement of a third person was lent as an additional security, which was required by the holders of the former bill. On the 6th of August, 1807, a valid commission was issued against the defendant, founded on an act of bankruptcy committed in the preceding March. The second bill became due on the 12th of September, 1807, when the plaintiff paid it. The first dividend under the commission was declared and made on the 6th of August, 1808. On the 4th of September, 1809, the defendant obtained his certificate. In an action for money paid, and the bankruptcy and certificate pleaded, a verdict was found for the plaintiff, subject to the opinion of the court, as to whether the certificate was a discharge. The court (Le Blanc, J. absente) held, that the second acceptance was a continuation of the same suretyship which was created by the first, and that as such suretyship commenced before any act of bankruptcy committed, and consequently before the plaintiff could have any notice of such act, the plaintiff might by 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. s. 8. have proved his demand under the commission, and therefore the certificate was a bar. *Postea* to the defendant.

² *Id. ibid.* Bayl. 200.

under the commission against the drawer, and the judgment debt, though greater than the original debt, will be barred by the certificate¹. So where a bill after proof under a commission against the acceptor, was paid by the drawer, and he after a dividend arrested the bankrupt for the balance, and was also a surety for him on another bill; the Chancellor made an order, that the bankrupt should be discharged, and that the plaintiff should be restrained from lodging any detainer under the above statute 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. s. 8. & 14².

2d. Who may prove.

5. When surety may prove under 49 Geo. 3. c. 121.

A partner is considered as a person *liable* for the joint debt of himself and his co-partners, and if the latter become a bankrupt, and the solvent partner be afterwards obliged to pay the whole debt, the certificate of the bankrupt partner will protect him from liability to make contribution to such solvent partner; and therefore where a partner continuing the business took an assignment of all the stock, &c. and covenanted to indemnify the retiring partner from the debts then owing from the partnership, and the continuing partner became a bankrupt, and obtained his certificate, and subsequently an action was commenced against the retiring partner upon an acceptance of the partnership, and judgment was obtained against him, and he paid the debt and costs; it was held, that no action would lie against the bankrupt upon the covenant; since, under the 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. s. 8. the retiring partner might on his liability have resorted to, and proved his debt under the commission, and was therefore barred by the certificate³.

But there are not any words in the stat. 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. s. 8. compulsory upon the party to prove, or precluding him from suing the bankrupt, subject to such action being rendered ineffectual by his ob-

¹ Ex parte Lloyd, 1 Rose, 4.

² Ex parte Lobben, 17 Ves. jun. 334, 5.—1 Rose, 219.

³ Wood v. Dodgson, 2 M. & S. 195.—2 Rose, 47.

2d. Who may prove.

5. When surety may prove under 40 Geo. 3. c. 121.

taining his certificate, and therefore the drawer of a bill who has paid the amount to the holder, after a commission of bankruptcy issued against the acceptor, may sue the acceptor before he has obtained his certificate, and arrest him upon the bill, notwithstanding the holder has proved the bill under the commission¹.

Thirdly, against whom, or under what Commission.

3dly, Against whom, and under what commission.

3dly, We have next to inquire *against* whom or under what commission, proof in respect of a bill may be made. And this may be considered under two heads; *first*, with relation to the *particular situation* of the party who has become bankrupt; and, *secondly*, to the *number* of the parties.

First, A party who is a bona fide holder of a bill, drawn regularly for value, is, we have seen, entitled to prove in all cases under a commission against any one of the parties, against whom he could have supported an action on the bill, though such party became bankrupt before the bill was due, and at the time when it was uncertain whether it would be paid by the acceptor². So a bill drawn by way of accommodation, though it cannot be proved, as between the parties to the accommodation, yet it may be proved by a bona fide holder against all parties, whether they have received value or not³. Wherever the holder could have sustained an action on the bill against the party, had he continued solvent, he may prove under his commission, in case he should become bankrupt. The rights and liabilities of parties at law, have already been considered, and therefore it is unnecessary here again

¹ Mead v. Braham, 3 M. & S. 91.

² Ante, 552.—Ex parte Marlur, 1 Atk. 150.—Cullen, 96.

³ Ex parte Marshall, 1 Atk. 130.—Ex parte King, Cooke, 157. Ex parte Crossley, Cooke, 158.—Ex parte Brymer, Cooke, 164.—Cullen, 97.—1 Mont. 152.

to notice the various decisions on the subject. In the case of cross paper, and of a bill or note given by way of indemnity, we have seen that a party may frequently prove, before he has advanced money, or been damnified, though the dividends will be withheld till his own paper has been paid¹. We have already considered the liability at law of a party transferring a bill, and we have seen that, in the case of a transfer by mere delivery, without an indorsement, the party is not in any case liable to be sued by any holder, except the party to whom he immediately transferred it, and then not upon the instrument itself, but for the precedent debt or consideration between them; and that in the case of the sale of a bill, the party transferring is not liable to any party. So in the event of bankruptcy it appears from the case in *Re Barrington*², that if B. hand over a negotiable note for valuable consideration to G. not indorsing it, but giving a written acknowledgment on a separate paper, to be accountable for the note to G., G. indorses the note, which, together with the written acknowledgment, comes into the hands of M. for valuable consideration, and B. and the several parties to the note become bankrupts, M. could not prove the note against the estate of B., (the written acknowledgment not being assignable,) but was entitled to have the amount made an item in the account between B. and G., and to stand in the place of the latter. So in the case of *Ex parte Harrison*³, it was held, that if a person transfer a bill, without indorsing it, but by a written instrument warrant the payment, in the same manner as if he had indorsed it, and he become a bankrupt before the bill is due, the holder cannot prove it under the commission against him. And if a trader procure cash for a bill, but do

¹ Ante, 565, &c.

² 2 Scho. and Lef. 112.

³ 2 Bro. 615.—*Ex parte Shuttleworth*, 3 Ves. jun. 368.—Cullen, 100, 101.

Sdly, Against
whom, and under
what commission.

not indorse it, because the person paying the cash thinks that the bill will have as good credit without his indorsement, the bill cannot be proved under a commission afterwards issued against the trader¹. And where a trader transferred a bill without indorsing it, and there was a private mark upon the bill, and it appeared in evidence, that all bills transferred by him without indorsement, but with this mark, were considered by him as rendering him liable to pay as if he had indorsed them; it was nevertheless held, that such bill could not be proved under a commission against him². So where a bill is transferred by way of sale, without being indorsed, it cannot be proved under a commission against the party transferring, even by the person to whom he transferred it³. But, if the bill were deposited merely as a pledge, the residue of the debt for which it was deposited, after a sale of the bill, is proveable under the commission⁴.

Secondly, with respect to the *number of parties*, the holder of a bill or note is entitled to prove it under different commissions, against all the several parties to the instrument, under their respective commissions, and to receive dividends upon the whole sum under each, to the extent of 20s. in the pound⁵; for it is a creditor's right in bankruptcy to prove and avail himself of all collateral securities from third persons to the extent of 20s. in the pound⁶; and the holder of a bill drawn by a firm upon some of their members constituting a distinct firm, has a right to prove it against all the parties according to their liabi-

¹ Ex parte Shuttleworth, 3 Ves. jun. 368.—Ex parte Blackburn, 10 Ves. jun. 206.—Cullen, 100, 101.

² Id. ibid.

³ Bank v. Newman, 1 Ld. Raym. 442.—Ex parte Smith, Cooke, 120. 1 Mont. 142.—Ex parte Witter, Cooke, 173.—Ante, 184 to 187.

⁴ Id. ibid.

⁵ Ex parte Wildman, 1 Atk. 109.—2 Ves. 113.—Ex parte Lefebvre, 2 P. W. 407.—Cowper v. Pepys, 1 Atk. 1071.—Ex parte Bloxham, 6 Ves. jun. 449. 600. 645.—See argument in 12 Ves. jun. 435. Cullen, 96.—1 Mont. 143.—Cooke, 170.—Bayl. 209.

⁶ Ex parte Parr, 18 Ves. jun. 65.—Devison and Robertson, 3 Dowe's Rep. 229. 230.

lities upon the bill, provided he was ignorant of their partnership¹; or such holder may prove it under one or more commissions against some of the parties, and proceed at law against the others². In *Ex parte Rushforth*³, Lord Eldon said, "It is clear that where a person has a demand upon a bill or bond against several persons, and no part of that demand has been paid before the bankruptcy by any of them, he may prove against each; and the circumstance that one is a surety and the other the principal, or a co-surety as between themselves, does not give a right to stop the holder from receiving dividends, till he has received 20s. in the pound; that is well settled in *Ex parte Marshall*, and *Ex parte Wildman*, and it applies to joint and several demands, either by bill or bond."

3dly, Against whom, and under what commission.

It has long been settled in bankruptcy, that a creditor cannot prove against the joint estate of two bankrupt partners, and also against the separate estate of one of them, but must elect, though he has distinct securities⁴, unless there is a surplus⁵; and a joint debt cannot be proved under a separate commission, except for the purpose of assenting to or dissenting from the certificate, and recovering a dividend out of the surplus, after satisfaction of the separate creditors; but if there are no joint effects and no solvent partners,⁶ or no separate debts, or the joint creditors will pay the separate creditors 20s. in the pound, they may then vote in the choice of assignees, and go at once against the separate estate⁶. But he must have time to look into the accounts of the respective

¹ *Ex parte Adams*, 2 Rose, 36.—1 Ves. & Bea. 495.—*Ex parte Parr*, 18 Ves. jun. 65.—*Davison & Robertson*, 3 Dow. 220. 230.

² *Ex parte Wildman*, 1 Atk. 109.—*Wilks v. Jacks*, Cooke, 168.—1 Mont. 143.

³ 10 Ves. jun. 416.

⁴ *Ex parte Bonbonus*, 8 Ves. jun. 542.—*Ex parte Wensley*, 2 Ves. & Bea. 254.

⁵ *Ex parte Rowlandson*, 3 P. W. 405.—*Ex parte Banks*, 1 Atk. 106.—*Ex parte Bond and Hill*, 1 Atk. 98.

⁶ *Ex parte Taitt*, 16 Ves. jun. 194.—1 Rose, 21. n. a.—*Heath v. Hall*, 4 Taunt. 328.

Sdly, Against
whom, and under
what commission.

estates, to see which will be most beneficial to him¹, and has been allowed to defer his election till a dividend declared². And in *Ex parte Bielby*³, where creditors had proved under a joint commission, upon a joint and several promissory note, but had not received a dividend, they were not permitted to waive their proof, and to prove against the separate estate, on the terms of not disturbing any dividends already made. And even receiving a dividend is no determination of an election, and the holder of a security has been allowed to change, on refunding the dividend⁴.

In *Ex parte Bonbonus*⁵, Lord Eldon said, "There have been many cases where three or more partners, being also concerned in other trades, the paper of one firm has been given to the creditors of another, and they were permitted to take dividends from both estates;" and in case of joint debts, paid by a bill drawn by one of the debtors and accepted by another, each carrying on distinct trades, there may be proof under their separate commissions upon the bill⁶.

When the *credit* has been joint, the creditor may be admitted to prove under a commission against the partners, notwithstanding he has taken a separate *security*⁷. And if money be lent on the separate notes or bills of different partners in the same firm, and be applied to the use of the partnership, and the firm, when solvent, agrees to consolidate the debts, and to consider them as partnership debts, the creditor may be admitted against the joint estate⁸. So

¹ *Ex parte Rowlandson*, 3 P. W. 405.—*Ex parte Banks*, 1 Atk. 106.—*Ex parte Bond and Hill*, 1 Atk. 98.

² *Ex parte Clowes, Cooke*, 258.

³ 13 Ves. jun. 70.

⁴ *Ex parte Rowlandson*, 3 P. W. 405.

⁵ 8 Ves. jun. 546.—*Ex parte Wensley*, 2 Ves. & Bea. 254.

⁶ *Ex parte Wensley*, 2 Ves. & Bea. 254.

⁷ *Ex parte Hunter*, 1 Atk. 223.—1 Mont. 619.—Cullen, 462.

⁸ *Ex parte Close*, 2 Bro. 595.—*Ex parte Bonbonus*, 8 Ves. jun. 542.—See other instances in Cullen, 462, 463.—1 Mont. 620.

on the other hand, when the credit has been separate, the creditor may be admitted to prove against the separate estate, notwithstanding he has taken a joint security¹. 3dly, Against whom, and under what commission.

Fourthly, to what Extent Proof may be made.

Fourthly, With respect to what sum, or to *what extent* proof may be made, it seems that the discount of a bill or note is entitled to prove the full amount, without deducting the discount². So a holder, who has purchased the bill for less than the amount of it, may prove for the whole³. So if a debtor give to his creditor an accommodation bill or note of a third person, to a larger amount than the debt, the creditor is entitled to prove the whole amount of the bill, under a commission against such accommodation party⁴. And the holder of a bill or note, transferred or pledged to him by his debtor as a collateral security for his debt, may prove the whole amount of the security, under a commission against any of the parties, except the debtor from whom he received it, although he has received part payment of his debt from such his debtor⁵. 4thly, To what extent proof may be made.

In the case of several parties, we have just seen that the holder of a bill or note is entitled to prove his debt under a commission against the drawer, acceptor, and indorsers, and to receive a dividend from each upon his whole debt, provided he does not in the whole receive more than 20s. in the pound⁶. So where A. being an indorsee of B. and Co's. acceptances for £1364 issued a separate commission against B. and at the time

¹ In *Re Bate*, 3 Ves. jun. 400.—*Ex parte Lobb*, 7 Ves. jun. 592. See other instances, 1 Mont. 621.

² *Ex parte Marler*, 1 Atk. 150.—*Cooke*, 174.—1 Mont. 143.

³ *Ex parte Lee*, 1 P. W. 782.—*Cullen*, 96, 97.—*Ante*, 553.

⁴ *Ex parte King*, *Cooke*, 159.—*Ex parte Crossley*, *Cooke*, 158.—*Ex parte Bloxham*, 6 Ves. jun. 449, 600. in which *Ex parte Bloxham*, 5 Ves. jun. 448. was over-ruled.

⁵ *Id. Ibid.*—1 Mont. 144.—*Bayl.* 210, 211. n. 1.

⁶ *Ante*, 586, 7.

4thly, To what extent proof may be made.

of suing out the commission, D. the person for whom A. had discounted the acceptances, had by payments on account reduced the debt to £420, it was held, that A. was entitled to prove for the whole amount, and for all that he received above the £420, will be a trustee for D.¹ But under a commission against the party from whom this holder received the bill, he can only prove to the amount of the actual debt then due.² There is a distinction in this case, where the creditor applies to prove his debt, after having received a part, and where he applies to prove *previous* to his having received any payment or composition. If the creditor, *at the time of proving, has received* any part of the bill or note, he can only prove for so much as remains, but if after having proved for the whole, he receives a part of the bill from any of the persons liable to pay it, he is entitled to a dividend upon the whole, provided it does not exceed 20s. in the pound, upon such part as remains due;³ and as to any overplus beyond 20s. in the pound, it is to be accounted for to the party next entitled to the benefit.⁴ In *Ex parte Bloxham*⁵, it was decided, that a creditor having securities of third persons, accommodation acceptors, to a greater amount than the debt, may prove and receive dividends upon the full amount of the securities to the extent of 20s. in the pound, upon the actual debt; and Lord Eldon said, I looked upon it as settled, that a creditor cannot hold the paper of his original debtor, a bankrupt, and prove beyond the actual debt upon it, but that such creditor may have the paper of third persons, who are debtors to such original debtor in more, and prove to the whole amount under the commission against them, and it is not material whether such third persons were indebted to the original debtor, for you

¹ *Ex parte De Tastet*, 1 Rose, 10.

² *Id. ibid.* Bayl. 211.

³ *Cooke*, 150, 1, 2, 3.—*Cullen*, 96.

⁴ *Cullen*, 96.

⁵ 6 Ves. jun. 449.

cannot attach equities upon bills of exchange. So in *Ex parte Bloxham*¹, the same point was decided, and Lord Eldon said, "A party wants to have a bill discounted, and the banker refuses to discount upon the credit of that bill only, and then the party says, he has in his hands another bill, and offers that as a security for the former, what is that but a right to prove against both estates, until 20s. in the pound has been obtained?"

^{4thly}, To what extent proof may be made.

We have just seen, that if the holder of a bill or note, at the time of proving, has received any part of it, he can prove only for the remainder². So it has been held, that where different parties to a bill or note become bankrupts, and a dividend is *declared*, though not paid, under one of the commissions, under which the holder has proved his debt, he cannot afterwards prove under another commission for more than the residue, after deducting the amount of the dividend declared³. In *Ex parte Iears*⁴, the Chancellor made an order, that the dividends should be deducted from the proof, according to this practice, as stated by Mr. Cooke, still expressing doubt as to the principle of it. Hence it is in general advisable, where there are several parties to a bill, to prove under the commission against each, as soon as possible, or at least before any dividend has been received, or even a commission declared against either.

In favour of *friendly societies*, it was enacted by 33 Geo. 3. c. 54. "That if any person appointed to any office by a friendly society, and intrusted with, or having in his hands or possession any monies or

Friendly societies.

¹ 6 Ves. jun. 600. in which the case in 5 Ves. jun. was overruled.

² Ante, 590 — 1 Mont. 143, 144.

³ *Cooper v. Pepys*, 1 Atk. 106. But see in *Ex parte Wildman*, 1 Atk. 109. where the Chancellor takes for granted, that in the case of *Cooper v. Pepys*, the holder had received the dividend before he attempted to prove his debt against the indorser, 1 Mont. 144. — Bayl, 210.

⁴ 6 Ves. jun. 644. Note, the reason assigned by Mr. Cooke fails, since 49 Geo. 3. c. 121, s. 12.

4thly. To what extent proof may be made.
Friendly societies.

effects belonging to such society, or any securities relating to the same, become a bankrupt, his assignees must deliver over all things belonging to such society, and pay out of the assets or effects all sums of money remaining due, which such person received by virtue of his office, before any of his other debts are paid or satisfied¹. It seems that this provision of the legislature, in preferring the claim of friendly societies to the claim of all other creditors, is not favoured². If an attorney is, from the commencement of the establishment of a friendly society, in the habit of receiving from the stewards the money of the society, whenever it amounts to a sum which they consider worth placing out at interest; and of giving them promissory notes from time to time, carrying interest; and the attorney become a bankrupt, and indebted to the stewards upon promissory notes payable on one month's notice, and no person has been appointed treasurer, the society is not entitled to a preference³. If no treasurer has been appointed by the society, and the president and steward are chosen annually, and the bankrupt has served the office of president and steward in different years, and in the capacity of steward has received the money of the society, and money is afterwards from time to time paid to him by the stewards and clerks, by order of the society, upon promissory notes bearing interest, given by him in the name of a firm of which he is a member, to the president and stewards, the society is not entitled to a preference⁴. A debt upon money lent by the consent of the society, upon a promissory note carrying interest, seems not to be entitled to a preference⁵. A debt upon money lent to a member of the society, upon his security,

¹ 33 Geo. 3. c. 54. s. 10.

² Ex parte Ross, 6 Ves. jun. 804.

³ Ex parte Ashley, 6 Ves. jun. 441. — Ex parte Ross, 6 Ves. jun. 804. — 1 Mont. 524.

⁴ Ex parte Ross, 6 Ves. jun. 804.

⁵ Id. ibid.

after he ceases to be an officer of the society, is not entitled to preference¹. And in *Ex parte Stamford Friendly Society*², it was held that the preference given to friendly societies, by the Statute 33 Geo. 3. c. 54. s. 10. over other creditors, was confined to debts in respect of money in the hands of their *officers, by virtue of their offices*, and independant of contract, and therefore does not extend to money held by the treasurer, upon the security of his promissory note, payable, with interest, on demand³.

4thly. To what extent proof may be made. Friendly societies.

The *interest*, which is recoverable at law, has already been stated⁴. With respect to the *proof of interest* under a commission, the rule appears to be, that whenever, by the express terms of the bill or note, interest is reserved, or where there is a contract or agreement between the parties, that the debt shall carry interest, it is payable⁵. Accordingly it has been held, that even upon notes payable on demand, not reserving interest, the interest might be proved, where it appeared to be the known and established custom of the trade to allow it, and that it had actually been paid by the bankrupt, and accounts settled with him, in which it had been charged, and allowed between the parties⁶. But it is reported to have been decided, that interest is not proveable upon a bill or note, unless it be expressed in the body of the note, or there is a special agreement for the payment of it⁷. In *Ex parte Hankey*⁸, and *Ex parte Mills*⁹, it was

Interest.

¹ *Ex parte Amicable Society of Lancaster*, 6 Ves. jun. 98.

² 15 Ves. jun. 280.

³ *Cooke*, 254, 5.

⁴ *Ante*, 537 to 541.

⁵ *Cooke*, 174. 183. — *Cullen*, 117. — 1 Mont. 145. 169. — *Bayl.* 212.

⁶ *Ex parte Champion*, 3 Bro. 436. — *Ex parte Hankey*, *ib.* 504. *Ex parte Mills*, 2 Ves. jun. 295.

⁷ *Ex parte Marler*, 1 Atk. 150.

⁸ 3 Bro. 504.

⁹ 2 Ves. jun. 295. — 1 Mont. 172. — Interest is recoverable at law, where goods have been sold upon the terms that a bill should be given, 13 East. 98.

4thly. To what extent proof may be made.
Interest.

held, that where by the custom of a trade interest is payable on a debt, and at the regular time of stating the accounts, the debtor is *debited* for interest, and afterwards becomes a bankrupt, the interest is proveable under his commission, notwithstanding the debt was secured by four promissory notes, of which only one upon the face of it was payable with interest, and the other three were merely notes payable on demand. It has been laid down, that if the instrument is not expressed to be payable with interest, no interest is in general proveable¹; it should seem, however, from the case of *Parker v. Hutchinson*², that interest is in general payable upon all bills and notes payable at a day certain, but not upon those payable at a day uncertain, or shop notes; and though that case did not arise in bankruptcy, yet, as affording evidence of the agreement of the parties, it appears to be applicable to the case of bankruptcy, and seems to render the principle of the practice, excluding the proof of interest on bills payable at a day certain, questionable. A creditor by bill or note is entitled to prove the whole interest due, whatever may be the amount, though a specialty creditor can never have interest beyond the penalty contained in his security³. And we have seen that the creditor may prove the full sum for which the bill or note was given, notwithstanding he received £5 per cent. discount, though the statute⁴ enacts, that upon bills and notes payable at a future time, a rebate of interest shall be deducted from the actual payment of the dividend, to the time when the security would have been payable.

When interest is allowed to be proved, it is never, in any case of an insolvent estate, allowed to be computed lower than the date of the commission, because

¹ 1 Mont. 170.—Cooke, 174. 183.

² 3 Ves. jun. 134.—*Upton v. Lord Ferrers*, 5 Ves. jun. 801. 803.

³ *Bromley v. Goodere*, 1 Atk. 75.—Cullen, 119.

⁴ 7 Geo. 1. c. 31.

it is said, the estate being a dead fund, a salvage of part to each, is all that in such a general loss can be expected¹. And where the act of bankruptcy to which the commission relates, is ascertained, no interest is allowed after that act of bankruptcy². And in cases of mutual credit, when both debts carry interest, the computation of interest should stop on both sides at the same time³. But in the case of an estate which turns out to be solvent, and where a surplus comes to a bankrupt, creditors have a right to interest, up to the actual time of payment, without regard to the date of the commission⁴, provided the instrument expressly entitles the holder to interest⁵. Though the rule was formerly only to allow £4 per cent., it appears from the decision of *Upton v. Lord Ferrers*, that £5 per cent. is to be allowed. And this is analogous to the different statutes with regard to the rebate of interest.

4thly. To what extent proof may be made.
Interest.

The difference upon the re-exchange of bills protested, and redrawn before the bankruptcy, is proveable under the commission, but if incurred after the bankruptcy it is not proveable⁶. So the costs and charges of protesting bills incurred before the bankruptcy, may be proved, but not those incurred after the bankruptcy⁷. But where, by the particular law of the country from which the bill is drawn, or when by express stipulation the re-exchange, or costs and charges, are fixed at a particular rate, they may be

Re-exchange⁷.

¹ *Butcher v. Churchill*, 14 Ves. jun. 573.—*Bromley v. Goodere*, 1 Atk. 79.—*Ex parte Bennett*, 2 Atk. 528.—*Cullen*, 118.—1 Mont. 173.—*Ex parte Williams*, 1 Rose, 401.
² *Ex parte Moore*, 2 Bro. 597.—*Bayley on Bills*, 94.
³ *Bromley v. Goodere*, 1 Atk. 79.—*Cullen*, 119.—1 Mont. 544.
⁴ *Ex parte Goring*, 1 Ves. jun. 170.—*Ex parte Mills*, 2 Ves. jun. 295.—*Butcher v. Churchill*, 14 Ves. jun. 573.—1 Mont. 564, 5.
⁵ *Ex parte Cocks*, 1 Rose, 317.—*Ex parte Williams*, id. 401.
⁶ 5 Ves. jun. 801. 8.
⁷ When recoverable, see ante, 541.
⁸ *Ex parte Hoffham*, Cooke, 173.—*Francis v. Rucker*, Amb. 672. *Cullen*, 102.—1 Mont. 146.
⁹ *Ex parte Moore*, 2 Bro. 597.—*Anon.*, 1 Atk. 140.—*Cullen*, 101. 1 Mont. 145.

4thly. To what extent proof may be made.

Re-exchange.

proved under the commission, though not incurred till after the act of bankruptcy. Thus, by the law of Philadelphia, the drawer of a returned bill must pay its contents, with £20 per cent. advance, as liquidated damages; in this case, if he become bankrupt, the £20 per cent. may be proved under his commission, though the bill was not protested till after his bankruptcy¹.

Fifthly. The Time of proving and making Claim.

5thly. The time of proof and making claim.

From the preceding observations, it may be collected, that no unnecessary delay should take place in making the proof, and we have seen that in some cases, if the proof be delayed till after a dividend has been declared, though not received, it will prevent the holder from proving the whole amount of his bill under a commission against another person². Formerly creditors were allowed to come in and prove their debts at any time within four months, and until distribution made, but they were not admitted after distribution actually made of any part of the estate; but now, except in case of gross laches, creditors are allowed to come in at any time, while any thing remains to be divided³. And in *Re Wheeler*⁴, it was decided that a creditor coming in to prove his debt after a dividend made (provided the delay was not fraudulent, but owing to accident, or unavoidable circumstances) should be put on a footing with the other creditors, before any further dividend was made. A creditor who has neglected to prove before a meeting to declare a *second* dividend, is in strictness only entitled to be paid future dividends, *pari passu* with the other creditors⁵; but it is the practice to permit such

¹ *Francis v. Rucker*, Amb. 672.—*Ex parte Moore*, 2 Bro. 599.—*Cullen*, 102.

² *Ante*, 591.—*Ex parte Lears*, 6 Ves. jun. 645.

³ *Ex parte Peachy*, 1 Atk. 111.—*Ex parte Styles*, *id.* 208. and *id.* 79.

⁴ 1 Sch. & Lef. 242.

⁵ *Ex parte Long*, 2 Bro. 50.—*Ex parte Styles*, 1 Atk. 208.—*Harding v. Marsh*, 2 Ch. Ca. 153.

creditor to be paid former dividends rateably with those who have been paid, and then to direct a general distribution of the residue¹. Where a creditor has a reasonable cause for not having proved in time to receive a first dividend, he is, upon proving, entitled first to be placed on an equality with the other creditors who received a first dividend, but not so as to disturb a former dividend, and then to receive the future dividends rateably with the other creditors². The mode of being admitted to receive in respect of former dividends, is by making an affidavit of the cause of delay, and by petition to the Chancellor, upon which an order may be obtained; and the assignees should not pay without it³. We have seen that in the case of a surety paying the debt of his principal after a commission against him, he may at any time prove under the commission, not disturbing the former dividends, and receive a dividend or dividends proportionably with the other creditors⁴.

5thly. The time of proof and making claim.

Where a party may not be able to swear to the precise amount of his debt, secured by a bill or note, it is advisable for him to make *a claim* as a means of securing a dividend, when his proof is afterwards established, without the necessity of applying to the Chancellor; and when a proper claim has been made, the dividend must be apportioned for it, and be withheld, until the validity of the claim has been ascertained⁵.

Claim.

Sixthly. The Mode and Terms of Proof, and Remedy for the Dividend.

The mode of proof of bills of exchange is governed by the general rules affecting proof under a commis-

6thly. The mode of proof, and terms on which admitted.

¹ Cooke, 521.—1 Mont. 556.

² Ex parte Long, 2 Bro. 50.—Ex parte Styles v. Pickart, 2 Atk. 208.

³ 1 Mont. 556.

⁴ Ante, 580. 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. s. 8.

⁵ Cooke, 255.—1 Mont. 459. 553.

6thly. The mode of proof, and terms on which admitted.

sion in other cases, and consequently it will be here only necessary to consider the peculiarities in the case of bills. The ordinary proof is by oath of the creditor¹. When it is upon the bill or note, the form of the deposition varies according to the mode in which the creditor obtained the bill or note. Under a commission against the party from whom the creditor immediately received the bill or note, the deposition states, that the bankrupt is indebted to the deponent upon the consideration for the instrument, and alleges that no security has been obtained, except the bill or note; but when the bill or note has not been received from the bankrupt himself by the creditor, the deposition states, that he is indebted on the instrument, and then shews the means and consideration by which the deponent became the holder². And where bills have been deposited by way of pledge, the proof is upon the original debt, and the deposition concludes by stating the delivery of the bills as a security, the particulars of which, if numerous, may be stated in a schedule³. Where several persons, whether general partners or otherwise, are the holders of the instrument, they must all be named as creditors in the deposition; but it is sufficient, if the deposition be made by one only of the partners⁴. If a bill has been lost, the proof must be admitted upon an indemnity⁵. A creditor is obliged, at the time of proving his debt, to state in his deposition, whether he has a security or not; and every security must be produced at the time when he proves, and the commissioners will mark it as having been exhibited⁶.

In general, if a party insist upon proving under a commission, he must deliver up the security for the

¹ Cullen, 140, 141.

² See the forms, post, Appendix.—² Cooke, 26, 27.—4 Mont. 91 to 93.

³ See the forms, post, Appendix.—4 Mont. 93.

⁴ 2 Cooke, 25.—Post, Appendix.—Ante, 555.

⁵ Ex parte Greenway, 6 Vcs. jun. 812.—Ante, 564.

⁶ Ex parte Bennet, 2 Atk. 528.

benefit of the creditors¹, or must apply to the commissioners to have the pledge sold, and to be admitted a creditor for the residue². And where a debtor, by way of collateral security, delivers a bill of exchange or promissory note, without his name appearing upon the paper, this is to be considered as a pledge, and not as an absolute transfer of the bill; and the creditor will not be allowed to prove under the commission against such debtor, and also to retain the securities, but must either give them up or obtain an order for the sale of them, and then prove for the deficiency³. Where a creditor, by a debt partly proveable and partly not, under a commission of bankruptcy, has a general pledge, he may apply it to the debt not proveable under the commission⁴. If a security is deposited by a debtor to indemnify his creditor for a balance then due, together with such further sums of money as shall be due to him for money to be advanced and paid for the debtor, either by bill accepted or to be accepted, and the debtor become a bankrupt, and the creditor, after the bankruptcy, pay various acceptances, he may apply the security, in the first place, to reduce the demand not proveable, on account of its not having been paid till after the bankruptcy⁵. If a security is deposited by a drawer to indemnify the acceptor, who pays part of his acceptances before the bankruptcy of the drawer, and part after such bankruptcy, the acceptor may apply the security to reduce the demand paid after the bankruptcy⁶.

But where the bankrupt did not merely deposit the bills or notes as a pledge, but indorsed them to the

6thly. The mode of proof, and terms on which admitted.

¹ *Ex parte Bennet*, 2 Atk. 528.

² *Ex parte Coming*, Cooke, 123.

³ *Ex parte Trowton, &c. Cooke*, 124. *Ex parte Hillier*, Cooke, 123.—Cullen, 147.—1 Mont. 458.

⁴ *Ex parte Haward*, Cooke, 120.—*Ex parte Arckley*, Cooke, 126. *Ex parte Hunter*, 6 Ves. jun. 94.

⁵ *Ex parte Haward*, Cooke, 120.—*Ex parte Hunter*, 6 Ves. jun.

⁶ *Ex parte Arckley*, Cooke, 126. *Ex parte Hunter*, 6 Ves. jun.

6thly. The mode of proof, and terms on which admitted.

creditor, he has a right to retain the security and proceed against the other parties, and also to prove his whole debt at the same time under the commission¹, provided he has not received part, or no dividend, under a commission against another estate has been declared, before he comes to prove, so that he do not receive more than 20s. in the pound upon his whole debt².

Proceeding at law, and proving also.

Formerly a creditor, who had proceeded at law, might also prove his debt under the commission against the same party, renouncing any benefit under the commission so as to afford him an opportunity of preventing, as far as he could, the very remedy he had chosen, from being defeated by the rest of the creditors, discharging the person of the bankrupt by signing his certificate without his concurrence or controul; and a party might also make a claim and still proceed at law³. But the Stat. 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. s. 14⁴. directs that a creditor, who has brought an action against a bankrupt, shall not be permitted to prove, or make a claim, without relinquishing such action, and that the proving, or claiming, a debt under a commission, shall be deemed an election by such creditor, to take the benefit of the commission with respect to the debt so proved or claimed. This Statute, however, does not affect the right of a person not being the petitioning creditor, to prove one debt under a commission, and to proceed at law for another⁵. And in *Ex parte Grovesnor*⁶, Lord Eldon said, "That if a creditor has a note for one sum and a bond for another, as the remedies and the relief under those securities are different, he may prove one debt and hold the bankrupt

¹ *Ex parte Bennett*, 2 Atk. 528.—*Ante*, 586.—1 Mont. 458.—Cullen, 146.

² Cullen, 146.—1 Atk. 110.

³ *Ex parte Sharp*, 11 Ves. jun. 203.—Cullen, 153. 159.

⁴ See the construction of this section in *Atherston v. Huddleston*, 2 Taunt. 181.

⁵ Cooke, 135.—Cullen, 149.

⁶ 14 Ves. jun. 588.

in execution for the other. But an entire demand cannot be split, and if there be a demand upon several notes or securities given in respect of the same transaction, it seems that the creditor cannot adopt these double remedies¹."

6thly. The mode of proof, and terms on which admitted.

Proceeding at law, and proving also.

It sometimes happens, *after* a creditor has made his proof, that, either from a disclosure of facts not before known or understood, it appears that it ought not to have been admitted, or at least not to the extent; or that, from a change of circumstances, the state of the debt proved is materially altered: and, in such cases, it becomes necessary either to *reduce* the proof, or to *expunge* it altogether². Thus if any bills, proved and accepted as securities by a creditor who discounted them for the bankrupt, or took them as a security for a general balance, are afterwards paid in full, or in any way fully satisfied, the amount of each bill must be deducted from the proof, and the future dividends only paid on the residue of the debt³. So if the holder of a bill compound with the *prior* names upon it, without the previous assent of the assignees of the subsequent parties, the latter are discharged; and if he takes such composition after having proved under the commission against the latter, the amount of the bill must be deducted from the proof⁴. But as the principle of these decisions is the same as that which precludes a party from recovering at law, and we have seen that, at law, that the holder does not discharge a prior party to a bill by compounding with a subsequent one, even though the former was known to be an accommodation acceptor⁵, so in the case of bankruptcy, compounding with a subsequent party will not affect the right to the dividends under a commission against

Reducing and expunging proof.

¹ 14 Ves. jun. 588.

² Cullen, 158.—1 Mont. 545.

³ Ex parte Smith.—Ex parte Bloxham.—Ex parte Wallace.—Ex parte Copley, Cooke, 155, 156.

⁴ Ex parte Smith, 3 Bro. 1.—Cooke, 168, 9.; and Ex parte Smith and others, Cooke, 171.—Cullen, 159.—1 Mont. 546.—Ante, 585, 6, 7.

⁵ Ante, 380, 1, 2, 3.

ethly The mode
of proof, and
terms on which
admitted.

Redacting and ex-
punging proof.

a prior one, because the estate of the latter had no claim upon that of the former, and therefore could not be prejudiced by the arrangement. It was on this ground held, in the case of *Ex parte Giffard*¹, that if a promissory note be made by one principal and three sureties, two of whom, and the principal, become bankrupts, and the holder of the note prove his whole debt under each commission, and afterwards receive a composition of 4s. in the pound from the remaining surety, the receipt for which is expressed to be for £191, and two notes, which, when duly paid, will be in full of the said debt and all other demands; and the dividend paid by the estate of the principal is 4s. in the pound, and by the bankrupt sureties is 5s. in the pound; no part of the proof under the commission against the bankrupt sureties must be expunged. The commissioners cannot expunge a debt without an order upon petition².

Restoring proof.

We have seen that in some cases, where the proof has been expunged, it may be *restored*, in order that the party himself, or some third person, may have the benefit of the original proof, and receive dividends which would not otherwise be recoverable³.

Benefit of ano-
ther's proof.

Where, between the time of proving his debt and of applying for a dividend under a commission against a principal debtor, as acceptor of a bill, maker of a note, or prior indorser, who ultimately ought to pay it, the holder has received from a surety or subsequent indorser, or of an accommodation acceptor, the whole of his debt, such party, thus standing in the situation of a surety, is entitled to the benefit of the proof made by the creditor; and he must receive the dividends as trustee for the surety⁴, provided the creditor

¹ 6 Ves. jun. 805.; see also *Williams v. Walsby*, 4 Esp. Rep. 220.

² *Ex parte Nixon*, 4 Mont. 34.

³ *Ex parte Matthews*, 6 Ves. jun. 285.—Cooke, 154.

⁴ *Ante*, 576, &c.—*Ex parte Ryswicke*, 2 P. Wms. 89. —Cooke, 152.

be not thereby prejudiced in respect of any other claim upon the estate¹.

Gibby. The mode of proof, and terms on which admitted.

Benefit of another's proof.

If a person, having a demand upon a country firm, who have dealings with a house in London, obtain permission from the country firm for one of his creditors to draw upon the London house, and the country firm and the London house became bankrupts, and the drawer, after proving under the commission against the London house, receive payment from his original debtor, that is, the person having a demand upon the country firm, such person is entitled to the benefit of the drawer's proof against the London house, if he have not proved the debt under the commission against the country firm, but if he has, it seems he is not entitled². If a banker pay, after notice of an act of bankruptcy committed by his customer, the drafts of a customer, in favour of a creditor whose debt would have been proveable under the commission, the banker is not entitled to stand in the place in which the creditor would have stood had his debt not been paid, and as so standing to receive a dividend rateably with the other creditors³.

Formerly, when a dividend of the bankrupt's estate had been declared by the commissioners, an action might be maintained against the assignees by a party who had proved a bill, for his share of the dividend; and in such action the proceedings, before the commissioners, were conclusive evidence of the debt, nor were the assignees suffered to set off any debt from the plaintiff to the bankrupt⁴. But it was enacted, by the 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. s. 12. that "no action shall be brought against the assignee for dividends, but on petition to the Chancellor to pay the same with in-

Remedy to recover dividend.

¹ Ante, 578.—Ex parte Turner, 3 Ves. jun. 243.—Cooke, 153, 154.

² Ex parte Matthews, 6 Ves. jun. 285.

³ Hankey v. Vernon, 3 Bro. 313.

⁴ Brown v. Bullen, Dougl. 407.; and Ex parte Leers, 5 Ves. jun. 645.

6thly. The mode of proof, and terms on which admitted.

terest and costs, when the justice of the case shall require it."

Seventhly. The Consequence of not proving, and Effect of Certificate.

7thly. Effect of certificate.

It may be laid down as a clear and established principle, that the discharge of the bankrupt should be commensurate and co-extensive with the relief to the creditor, and consequently that all debts shall be discharged by the certificate that either have been, or that *might have been*, proved under the commission¹; and, on the other hand, the bankrupt's remaining still liable, and the creditor's not being able to prove his debt under the commission, are convertible terms². The various instances in which bills and notes may be proved have been considered. The Statutes which enable the holder of a bill to prove in particular cases, contain a clause, that in cases where the holder could avail himself of the proof, the certificate shall protect the bankrupt from all further responsibility; and the Statute 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. s. 8. having enabled sureties to prove in various instances where he has been compelled to pay the bill or note after the issuing of the commission has greatly enlarged the effect of the certificate. There are, however, still some cases relating to bills and notes, in which the certificate will not be a bar to any future action. Thus, if the bill or note were drawn and payable in England, and the cause of action accrue here, a certificate abroad will not be any bar to an action in this country, although at the time of making the contract the bankrupt resided abroad, in the country where he afterwards obtained his certificate³. But where the cause of action

¹ Ex parte Groom, 1 Atk. 119.—Chilton v. Wiffin, 3 Wils. 13.

² Per Lord Kenyon in Cowley v. Dunlop, 7 T. R. 565. and see 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. s. 14. and 1 Rose, 204.

³ Quin v. Keefe, 2 Hen. Bla. 553.—Pedder v. Macmaster, 8 T. R. 609.—Smith v. Buchannan, 1 East. 6.; but see Burrows v. Jemmino, 2 Stra. 733.

accrues abroad, a certificate in the country where the cause accrued, is a bar to any action in this country¹. And if a bill of exchange, drawn in Ireland upon a person resident in Ireland, be accepted, and the acceptor become a bankrupt in Ireland, and there obtain his certificate, and afterwards be proceeded against in this country upon the bill, the court will order an exoneretur to be entered on the bail piece, on the ground, that as the debt was contracted in Ireland where the commission issued, it was discharged by the certificate². And if a person draw a bill in America in favour of a firm in America, who have also a house in London, upon a person residing in London, and the bill be refused acceptance, and notice of refusal is given to the drawer in America, and the drawer afterwards become a bankrupt and obtained his certificate in America, it is a bar in this country to any action against the drawer³. The general rule of law is, that *debitum et contractus sunt nullius loci*, and that the payment of a debt, wherever it may have been contracted, may be enforced in any country; and consequently, whenever a creditor might prove under a commission abroad, it should seem, on principle, that a certificate should be a bar to every debt wherever it was contracted. But, on the other hand, great inconveniencies might ensue from fraudulent certificates in remote countries being obtained before a creditor here could be apprized of the proceeding, and therefore unless the contract was made, or at least in some measure connected with the foreign country, he should not be prejudiced by such certificate. When a certificate abroad operates as a discharge in this country, it seems that the extent of the discharge will depend upon the law of the country where the certificate is obtained⁴.

7thly. Effect of certificate.

¹ Potter v. Brown, 5 East. 124.

² Ballantine v. Golding, Cooke, 115.

³ Potter v. Brown, 5 East. 174.

⁴ Ex parte Burton, 1 Atk. 255.—1 Mont. 662.

7thly. Effect of certificate.

Where a bankrupt is discharged by his certificate from a *debt* in one form, he cannot be charged by the creditor for the same debt in another form of action: and therefore, in the case of *Foster v. Surtees*¹, where, by agreement between the plaintiffs, bankers at Carlisle, and the defendants, bankers at Newcastle, the plaintiffs were weekly to send to the defendants all their own notes and the notes of certain other banking-houses; and the defendants were in exchange to return the plaintiffs their own notes and the notes of certain other bankers, and the deficiency, if any, was to be made up by a bill drawn by the defendants in favour of the plaintiffs at a certain date; it was held that the notes so sent by the plaintiffs to the defendants constituted a debt against them, which the defendants might pay by a return of notes according to the agreement; but if they made no such return, or a short return, and gave no bill for the balance, such balance remained as a debt against them, which was proveable by the plaintiffs, under a commission of bankrupt issued against the defendants, on an act of bankruptcy committed after the time when the bill for the balance, if drawn, would have been due and payable; and that the plaintiffs could not maintain an action to recover damages as for a breach of contract against the defendants who had obtained their certificates. But, in some cases a creditor has an election to shape his demand on the bankrupt either as a debt, or as for a tort, and if he adopt the latter, the certificate will be no bar. Thus, if a bankrupt to whom a bill has been delivered to obtain the payment when due, and to remit to his employer, discount it at a loss before it was due, and embezzle the money, if sued for this tort his certificate would be no bar². So if bills be deposited merely as a pledge, if the bank-

¹ 12 East. 605.

² *Parker v. Norton*, 6 T. R. 695.

rupt pledge them as his own, he will continue liable to a special action for this tort¹.

^{7thly} Effect of certificate.

The effect of the certificate as to a debt which might have been proved under the commission may be avoided by a *fresh contract* entered into with the bankrupt *bonâ fide* after an act of bankruptcy, even before or after he has obtained his certificate². All the debts of a bankrupt continue due in conscience, notwithstanding he has obtained his certificate; and though a security, or a promise, as a consideration for signing his certificate is void, any security given *bonâ fide* without fraud or imposition on the bankrupt is valid and binding upon him, though there be no new consideration³. Thus in the case of *Trueman v. Fenton*⁴, where the bankrupt after the act of bankruptcy, and after the issuing of the commission, but *before* he had obtained his certificate, gave a promissory note in consideration of two former bills of the bankrupt being cancelled, and of an agreement not to accept a dividend under the commission, it was held that the certificate was no bar to an action on the note. And if a bankrupt, *after* obtaining his certificate, undertake to pay any creditor the residue of his debt, the undertaking, if made freely and without fraud, is binding⁵.

New contract, or promise.

V. OF MUTUAL CREDIT AND SET OFF.

WHEN at the time of the act of bankruptcy, there were cross demands subsisting between the bankrupt

^{5.} Mutual credits.

¹ *Johnson v. Spiller*, Dougl. 167.—Cullen, 113. 891.

² Cullen, 386.—1 Mont. 586.

³ *Trueman v. Fenton*, Cowp. 544.—*Birch v. Sharland*, 1 T. R. 715.

⁴ Cowp. 544.

⁵ *Ibid.* and the several cases collected in Cullen, 386 to 388. and in 1 Mont. 587. n. p. where see other points on this subject, &c.

⁶ As to mutual debts and credits between a bankrupt and other persons, see Bayl. 212 to 216.

5. *Mutual credit.* and a creditor, the latter, by *setting off* his debt against his demand, stands in a better situation, than other creditors not in that situation, who can only prove under the commission, and receive dividends. In equity, long anterior to the statutes permitting a set-off at law, a party might avail himself of any cross demand, and preclude his creditor from recovering more than the balance that might be due to him on a fair adjustment of accounts. And though the spirit of the bankrupt laws is to make an equal distribution amongst all the creditors, yet this must in justice be governed by the nature of the dealings between the parties, and as it may be fairly presumed that where mutual transactions have taken place between a bankrupt and another trader, they have respectively given greater credit to each other than would have taken place in any separate *ex parte* dealings; it is therefore just, that in the case of bankruptcy their mutual demands should be set-off against each other. It was therefore enacted by the Stat. 5 Geo. 2. c. 30. s. 28. "That where it shall appear to the commissioners, or the major part of them, that there hath been *mutual credit* given by the bankrupt and any other person, or mutual debts between the bankrupt and any other person, *at any time before such person became a bankrupt*, the said commissioners, or the major part of them, or the assignees of such bankrupt's estate, shall state the account between them *and one debt may be set against another*, and what shall appear to be due on either side on the balance of such account, and on setting such debts against one another, and no more, shall be claimed or paid on either side respectively." And by Stat. 46 Geo. 3. c. 135. s. 3. it is enacted, "That in all cases in which, under commissions of bankrupt hereafter to be issued, it shall appear that there has been mutual credit given by the bankrupt and any other person, or mutual debts between the

“ bankrupt and any other person, one debt or demand 5. Mutual credit.
 “ may be set off against another, *notwithstanding*
 “ *any prior act of bankruptcy* committed by such
 “ bankrupt before the credit was given to, or the
 “ debt was contracted by such bankrupt, *in the like*
 “ *manner as if no such prior act of bankruptcy had*
 “ *been committed*, provided such credit was given to
 “ the bankrupt *two calendar months* before the date
 “ and suing forth of such commission, and provided
 “ the person claiming the benefit of such set-off, had
 “ not at the time of giving such credit *any notice* of
 “ any prior act of bankruptcy by such bankrupt com-
 “ mitted, or that he was insolvent or had stopped
 “ payment.”

Upon these statutes it is observable that the word *credit* is more comprehensive than the word *debt*, and Lord Mansfield said, in the case of *French v. Fen*¹, that the act of parliament was accurately drawn to avoid the injustice that would be done, if the words were only mutual debts, and it therefore provides for mutual credit. The subject of mutual credit, as far as it relates to bills of exchange and promissory notes, may be considered under the three following heads :

1st. *The nature of the debt and consideration upon which it is founded.*

2d. *The parties between whom the mutual credit may exist.*

3d. *The time when the debt or credit arose.*

I. With respect to *the debt or demand proposed to be set off*, not only mutual running accounts are within the statutes, but also other cross demands subsisting at the time of the act of bankruptcy, and even such debts have been allowed to be set off as could not have been brought into any account in

1. The nature of the debt to be set off.

¹ Ex parte Stevens, 11 Ves. jun. 27.—Cooke, 554.—1 Mont. 529. Cullen, 192 to 197.

5. Mutual credit.

1. The nature of the debt to be set off.

equity betwixt the parties, such as debts arising to one party not by contract, but by reason of a fraud on the other, and therefore not a mutual credit¹. Even a legacy, which cannot be considered as a demand arising from a contract, has, when assented to by the executor, been considered admissible as a set-off against a demand on the legatee². And the illegality of the consideration will not, in the case of bankruptcy, in all cases preclude a person from setting off what is equitably due. And therefore it has been decided, that a party to a contract, on which he has taken usurious interest, may set-off the sum really advanced on the contract³. And a transaction has been held to be a mutual credit, though its operation seem contrary to an agreement of all the parties, for a vendor of several parcels of goods sold to the bankrupt, for which the latter gave his acceptances, payable at different times, having received of the bankrupt at the time one of them became due before the bankruptcy, a bill of exchange for a greater amount, and given an undertaking to pay over the difference when received, was allowed, though contrary to the agreement, to retain it for the debt due to him upon the other parcels, which were not paid for at the time of the bankruptcy; this constituting a mutual credit, on the one side to the bankrupt upon his acceptances, the obligation to pay which, at all events, at a future day, was not superseded by the agreement; and on the other by giving the bill⁴. The same point was established in *Ex parte Wagstaff*⁵, in which it was held that an acceptance not due till after the bankruptcy of the drawer, is capable of being set off against a distinct debt due from such acceptor to the drawer within the clause of the act as to mutual credit. And

¹ Cullen, 196.

² *Jeffs v. Wood*, 2 P. W. 128.

³ *Ryall v. Rolls*, 1 Ves. 375.

⁴ *Atkinson v. Elliot*, 7 T. R. 378.—*Cooke*, 559. but see *Ex parte Flint*, 1 Swanston's Rep. Ch. 30.

⁵ 13 Ves. jun. 65.

where Lord Cork gave the bankrupt his accommodation notes, upon a written undertaking to indemnify, and his lordship paid the notes after the bankruptcy, he was allowed to set off the payment against a demand of the bankrupt for business done¹. So if the assignees of a bankrupt affirm the acts of the bankrupt as a contract, by suing a party in assumpsit, he may have the benefit of a set-off, which he could not have had if he had been sued as for a tort. As where goods had been sold to a party by way of fraudulent preference in satisfaction of a debt due to him from the bankrupt, and the assignees sued him as for goods sold and delivered, thereby affirming the transaction as a contract of sale by the bankrupt; the purchaser was allowed to avail himself of a set-off². But if a banker receive and pay money on account of a bankrupt, after notice of his bankruptcy, he cannot set off the payments against the receipts³. A creditor upon a bill of exchange or promissory note of the bankrupt's indorsed to him, *before* the bankruptcy, may set it off against a debt due from him to the bankrupt for goods bought after the indorsement, and also before the bankruptcy, though the bankrupt did not know that the bill was indorsed to and in the possession of the party at the time, for the sending of a bill into the world is considered as gaining *a credit* to the party with every person who takes the bill⁴. The case *Ex parte Metcalfe*⁵ may be considered as a case of mutual credit; A. and B. had become bankrupts, and proof in respect to a cash balance due from A. to B. was admitted, but the dividends were ordered to be retained to reimburse the estate of B. what it might be liable to pay on account of an advance of

5. Mutual credit.

1. The nature of the debt to be set off.

¹ *Ex parte Boyle*, 1 Cooke, 561.

² *Smith v. Hodgson*, 4 T. R. 211.; but see *Thomason v. Frere*, 10 East. 418.—Cooke, 557.

³ *Vernon v. Hankey*, 2 T. R. 113.

⁴ *Hankey v. Smith*, 3 T. R. 507.

⁵ 11 Ves. jun. 404.—*Madden v. Kempster*, 1 Campb. 12. S. P.

5. Mutual credit.

1. The nature of the debt to be set off.

bills from A. to B. some of which were dishonoured. Where A. before his bankruptcy, discounted certain bills with B. and Co. his bankers, and they gave him immediate credit for the value of the bills in his account minus the discount, and a balance was struck before the bankruptcy, and whilst the bills were yet running, in favour of A., when the bankers admitted that they had in their hands £934:8s.:8d. due to A., giving him credit for the bills then running, and A. became a bankrupt, and the bills were dishonoured, it was held that in an action against the bankers for the balance admitted to be due to A. before his bankruptcy, they have a right to set off against such claim the amount of the dishonoured bills, it being a case of *mutual credit*¹.

2. In what right due.

II. To constitute mutuality of debts or of credits, it is in general necessary, that the sum claimed *was due to the bankrupt, and is due to the creditor in their own rights* respectively. Thus a joint and separate debt cannot be set off against each other²; and in the case of the bankruptcy of one only of several partners, the defendant, in an action by assignees and solvent partners, cannot set off³, and a debt due to a party as trustee for another person, cannot be set off⁴. The right of set off in this respect appears to be governed by the same rules as prevail at common law⁵. In the case *Ex parte Twogood*⁶, under

¹ *Arbouin v. Tritton*, 1 Holt, Ca. Ni. Pri. 408.

² *Ex parte Twogood*, 11 Ves. jun. 519.—*Ex parte Stevens*, 11 Ves. jun. 27.—1 Mont. 552.—1 Chitty on Pleading, 3d edit. 554, 5.

³ *Staniforth v. Fellows*, 1 Marsh. 184.

⁴ *Fair v. M'IVER*, 16 East. 130.

⁵ *Tidd's Prac.* 4th edit. 598, 9. and see the set-off of one judgment against another, *id.* 895, 6. and see 1 Chitty, 3d edit. 554. 558 to 560.

⁶ 11 Ves. jun. 517. but see the cases at law in *Tidd's Prac.* 4th edit. 895, 6. where a joint demand has been set off, with the concurrence of the partners, against a separate demand, and vice versa. It appears *equitable* that where all the partners agree to set off their joint demand against the demand of a separate creditor of one of them, it should be allowed, so as to prevent his entire demand being recoverable. But in case of bankruptcy, creditors might be prejudiced by such an arrangement, and the difficulties in effecting it would be insurmountable, 1 Chitty on Pleading, 3d edit. 549. 558 to 560.

separate commissions of bankruptcy, relief in the nature of set-off against a separate creditor of the bankrupt, indebted to the partnership to a greater amount was refused, and Lord Eldon, after pointing out the inconveniencies that might ensue if he allowed the petition, said that there was a good deal of natural equity in the proposition upon which the petition stood, but that pursuing it through all its consequences, it would so disturb all the habitual arrangement in bankruptcy that he dare not do it. But under particular circumstances where great injustice would otherwise prevail, exceptions to this rule are allowed. Thus where a person gave a note to his bankers on account of a supposed balance due to them, but in which there was a mistake, and the bankers indorsed the note to another firm, consisting of some of the partners in the banking house; the maker of the note may set off the debt due to him from his bankers, to an action commenced against him on the note by the firm who hold it, the knowledge of one of the partners in such firm, being deemed equivalent to notice to all, and consequently they were affected by the state of accounts between the maker of the note and his bankers¹. And in *Ex parte Stevens*², an equitable set-off, under circumstances, was allowed when there could be none at law. In that case bankers directed to lay out money in navy annuities, but not having done so, represented that they had, and made entries, and accounted for the dividends accordingly; and they took a joint promissory note from the party under that supposition, and her brother, to secure an advance from them to him, upon which the assignees, under their bankruptcy, sued him alone, and an order was made for proof of the balance, setting off the debt upon the note, and that the note should be delivered to her as if she had paid it.

¹ *Puller v. Roe, Peake, 197.*

² *11 Ves. jun. 24.*

5. Mutual credit.
2. In what right
due.

5. Mutual credit.
3. The time when
the mutual debts
or credits arose.

III. Consistently with the rule by which no creditor, whose debt did not accrue before the bankruptcy, can prove under a commission, and also upon the express words of 5 Geo. 2. c. 30. s. 28. and the 46 Geo. 3. c. 135. s. 3. relative to mutual debts and credits, no debt or credit can be set against another by way of set-off, unless *both respectively* accrued or were given *before* the bankruptcy, or two calendar months before the commission where there has been a secret act of bankruptcy¹. Thus where bankers accepted bills of exchange for the accommodation of a trader, and he, after committing an act of bankruptcy, lodged money in their hands to pay the bills, it was held that as the money was deposited after an act of bankruptcy, the assignees might recover it, and the bills could not be set off², and it has been recently held, that to enable the holder of a bankrupt's acceptances to avail himself of them in an action by the assignees against himself on his own acceptances, by way either of set-off or of mutual credit, he must most distinctly prove either that the obligation on himself to pay the bill so set off subsisted before the bankruptcy, or that there was a mutual credit created in the origin of the bills³. Yet, if the ground of the proposed set-off constituted *a credit*, though not, strictly speaking, a debt, before the act of bankruptcy, it may be set off under the clause of mutual credit⁴. A demand arising upon an instrument payable after the bankruptcy, may, if made before, be set off, if it is payable unconditionally on a day certain⁵. And a bill or note payable unconditionally, and given by a principal to a surety

¹ Tamplin v. Diggings, 2 Campb. 313.—Cullen, 197.—1 Holt, C. N. P. 411. in notes.—Oughterlony v. Easterby, 4 Taunt. 888.

² Tamplin v. Diggings, 2 Campb. 312.

³ Oughterlony v. Easterby, 4 Taunt. 888.

⁴ Cullen, 199.

⁵ Ex parte Prescott, 1 Atk. 231.—Smith v. Hodson, 4 T. R. 211. Atkinson v. Elliot, 7 T. R. 371.

by way of indemnity, may be set off¹. And a person who lends notes of hand, and receives from the borrower a memorandum promising to indemnify him, may set off the amount of any of these notes paid by him after the bankruptcy of the borrower to a demand from the assignees for a sum due to the borrower². But a debt contracted after notice of the act of bankruptcy cannot be set off³.

5. Mutual credit.
3. The time when the mutual debts or credits arose.

A bill or note indorsed to the claimant *after* the bankruptcy cannot be set off, although we have seen that it may be proved⁴; and it is incumbent on an indorsee to shew that the indorsement was made before the bankruptcy; but the possession by the payee of a note, made before the bankruptcy, seems to afford reasonable presumptive evidence that it came into his possession at the time it bears date⁵. In a recent case where to an action by the assignees of a bankrupt for a debt due to the bankrupt's estate, the defendant set off notes in his possession issued by the bankrupt before his bankruptcy, it was held, that proof that notes to the amount of the set-off came into the defendant's hands three or four weeks before the bankruptcy, was sufficient evidence from which the jury might infer, that he was in possession of them at the time of the bankruptcy, without identifying them with the notes produced⁶. Though, in this case, *the debt*, as against the bankrupt, existed before the bankruptcy, yet it was not to the same party, and though we have seen that such a debt is allowed to be *proved* by the Stat. 7 Geo. 1. c. 31., that is very different from the operation of a *set-off*; for, by the former, no new charge at least is brought upon the estate, which it would not

¹ Dobson v. Lockart, 5 T. R. 133.

² Ex parte Boyle, Cooke, 561.—1 Mont. 541.

³ Hawkins v. Penfold, 2 Ves. jun. 550.—Vernon v. Hankey, 2 T. R. 113.—1 Mont. 540.

⁴ March v. Chambers, Bull. N. P. 180.—2 Stra. 1234.—Dickson v. Evans, 6 T. R. 57.—Cooke, 552.

⁵ Dickson v. Evans, 6 T. R. 57.

⁶ Moore v. Wright, 6 Taunt. 517.—2 Marsh. 209. S. C.

5. Mutual credit.
 5. The time when
 the mutual debts
 or credits arose.

have been liable to at the time of the bankruptcy, but which there is in the latter, and a creditor cannot be permitted to vary the relation in which he stood to the bankrupt's estate at that time, by an act *ex post facto*, in a transaction with a third party, and thereby to put himself in a better condition than the rest of the creditors¹. In the case of *Dickson v. Evans*, Lord Kenyon, observing upon this rule, said, "It would be most unjust indeed if one person, who happens to be indebted to another at the time of the bankruptcy of the latter, were permitted, by any intrigue between himself and a third person, so to change his own situation, as to diminish or totally destroy the debt due to the bankrupt, by an act *ex post facto*. In cases of this sort, the question must be considered in the same manner as if it had arisen at the time of the bankruptcy, and cannot be varied by any change in the situation of one of the parties." So a bill of exchange *bonâ fide* negotiated by an indorser before an act of bankruptcy by the acceptor, and taken up and paid by such indorser after the bankruptcy, cannot be set off by him under the commission against the acceptor. This point was established in the case *Ex parte Hale*², and in that case the Chancellor said, "Pay the £90 that you owe the estate, and *prove* the £200. I see no objection to that, but you cannot, by paying that bill, put yourself in a better situation than any other creditor. There was no mutual credit. There was a debt created upon the estate, and due at the time of the bankruptcy, but that debt was not *due to you*; therefore, in that respect, the set-off fails. In the latter case cited³, there was no prejudice to the estate; it made no larger demand." The statute 46 Geo. 3. c. 135. s. 3. has provided that mutual debts and credits con-

¹ *Ex parte Hale*, 3 Ves. jun. 304.—*Dickson v. Evans*, 6 T. R. 57.

² 3 Ves. jun. 304.; see also *Hankey v. Smith*, 3 T. R. 509.—*Dickson v. Evans*, 6 T. R. 57.

³ *Ex parte Seddon*.

tracted or grown after a secret and unknown act of bankruptcy, two calendar months before the date of the commission may be set off.

5. Mutual credit.
3. The time when the mutual debts or credits arose.

VI. GENERAL EFFECT OF BANKRUPTCY ON THE PROPERTY OF THE BANKRUPT AND OF OTHERS.

In considering who may indorse a bill¹, and by and to whom payment may be made², several of the points relating to bankruptcy have necessarily been considered. A few others remain to be stated, which may be arranged under the following heads, as they relate to

1st. The property of the bankrupt, and contracts entered into by him.

2dly. The property of others.

First. The uniform principle laid down by the courts upon this subject is, that assignees takes a bankrupt's property in the same situation, and subject to the same burthens as the bankrupt himself had it, and they stand in his place, and are bound by all acts fairly done by him in relation to his property, and that this remains in their hands subject to all equitable liens, by which it was affected in the hands of the bankrupt himself³. And though a chose in action cannot strictly be assigned at law, yet if a bankrupt, before his bankruptcy, for a valuable consideration, and without fraud, assign to a creditor, a debt or bill of exchange or note, it will be binding on the assignees⁴. And if a bill or note be not capable of delivery at the time, a transfer of it, without delivery, will be binding upon the assignees, provided notice of the assign-

1. The property of the bankrupt, and contracts entered into by him.

¹ Ante, 149 to 159.

² Ante, 360 to 364.

³ Parker v. Elliason, 1 East. 544.—5 T. R. 133.—3 T. R. 599.—Cullen, 185, 6.

⁴ Rowe v. Dawson, 1 Ves. jun. 331.—Graff v. Gressfulke, 1 Camph. 19.

6. Effect of bankruptcy, &c.

1. The property of the bankrupt, and contracts entered into by him.

ment be given to the debtor¹. But as soon as the security is capable of being delivered, it must be handed over, for if it remain in the hands of the bankrupt, the assignees will be entitled to it². And where a trader delivered a bill for a valuable consideration to another, previously to an act of bankruptcy, and forgot to indorse it, it was held that he might indorse it after his bankruptcy³. And if the bankrupt has no beneficial interest or valuable property in a bill, as where it is accepted by another for his accommodation, he may, after an act of bankruptcy, indorse it, so as to convey a right of action thereon to a third person against the accommodation acceptor⁴. And in *Willis v. Freeman*⁵, where the bill was drawn by the bankrupt partly for value, and partly for accommodation, and he indorsed it after his act of bankruptcy to a creditor, it was held that the latter might recover on the bill the difference between the real debt and the whole sum for which the bill was drawn. And assignees cannot, any more than the bankrupt himself could, hold property obtained by his fraud or crime, and therefore, they have been held liable to restore money received by them upon bills, which he had got in return for one, of which he knew the acceptance was a forgery⁶.

So bills of exchange, or promissory notes indorsed by the bankrupt after he had dishonoured bills, and been otherwise irregular in his payments, may be retained by the indorsee, unless it were known to him at the time that the insolvency of the bankrupt was decidedly a general inability to answer his engage-

¹ *Brown v. Heathcote*, 1 Atk. 160.—*Lempriere v. Pasley*, 2 T. R. 485.—*Cullen*, 189, 190. 308.—1 Mont. 342, 343, 344.

² *Jones v. Gibbons*, 9 Ves. jun. 410.—*Cooke*, 349 to 352.

³ *Smith v. Pickering*, Peake's Ca. Ni. Pri. 50.—*Rolleston v. Hibbert*, 3 T. R. 411.

⁴ *Arden v. Watkins*, 3 East. 317.—*Wallace v. Hardacre*, 1 Campb. 46, 7.; but qualified in notes, id. 179.

⁵ 12 East. 656.

⁶ *Harrison v. Walker*, Peake's Ca. Ni. Pri. 111.

ments¹. So, if a trader, after he has committed a secret act of bankruptcy, indorse a bill of exchange to a creditor, who receives the money due on the bill before a commission issues against the trader, such payment is protected by the statute².

6. Effect of bankruptcy, &c.

1. The property of the bankrupt, and contracts entered into by him.

But if the holder of a bill of exchange give time to an acceptor, upon condition that he shall pay interest, and the acceptor afterwards pay the bill after having committed a secret act of bankruptcy, this is a payment of a loan of money³ at interest, and not a payment in the course of trade⁴. But a payment by a trader, after having had time given him for payment, but not upon an over-due security, may, as it seems, be protected by the statute⁵. A payment of a bill before it is due⁶; or upon a trader's soliciting his creditor to receive the money, seems not to be a payment in the course of trade⁷.

Where the bankrupt has accepted bills for goods which he has purchased, this does not divest the right of the vendor to stop the goods in transitu upon the bankruptcy of the vendee⁸.

2dly. With respect to the *property of others* in the hands of a bankrupt, it is frequently affected by his bankruptcy, either in the case of *liens*, or of his being *reputed* owner. A banker has a lien for the general balance due to him upon bills or notes in his hands paid in generally⁹. So a person has a lien upon all property placed in his possession as a consideration

2d. The property of others.

¹ Anon. 1 Campb. 491. in notes.

² Hawkins v. Penfold, 2 Ves. 550.

³ Copland v. Steine, 8 T. R. 199.

⁴ Vernon v. Hall, 2 T. R. 684, ante, 611.

⁵ Per Eyre, J. in Holmes v. Wennington, 2 Bos. & Pul. 399.

⁶ Per Heath, J. in Cox v. Morgan, 2 Bos. & Pul. 398.

⁷ Id. ibid. and Singleton v. Butler, 1 Bos. & Pul. 283. See various decisions as to payments by and to bankrupts, in 1 Mont. 311 to 324. Cullen, 234 to 239.

⁸ Lickbarrow v. Mason, 2 T. R. 63.—Solomons v. Nissen, 2 T. R. 674.—Hodgson v. Loy, 7 T. R. 440.—Kinlock v. Craig, 3 T. R. 119. Cullen, 266.—1 Mont. 265.

⁹ Jordan v. Le Fevre, 1 Esp. 66.—Davis v. Boucher, 5 T. R. 488.

6. Effect of bankruptcy, &c.
2d. The property of others.

for his acceptance of a bill, which he is liable to pay after the bankruptcy of the owner who made the deposit¹. Property in the possession of a bankrupt, though he be not the real owner, will pass to his assignees, on the ground of his being reputed owner under the Stat. 21 J. 1. c. 19. s. 10, 11.

In the case of the bankruptcy of a factor or banker, bills remitted to them, and entered short while unpaid, and bills paid in generally, to be received, and not discounted or treated as cash, and bills sent for a particular purpose, are not affected by the bankruptcy of the factor or banker, and the property in them is not altered, and, they or the proceeds received by the assignees, must be returned by them to the principal, subject to such lien as the factor or banker may have thereon², and this has been so

¹ *Hammonds v. Barclay*, 2 East. 227.

² *Ante*, 158.—*Zinck v. Walker*, 2 Bla. Rep. 1154.—*Brown v. Kewley*, 2 Bos. & Pul. 523.—*Bolton v. Richard*, 6 T. R. 139.—5 T. R. 215. 494.—1 East. 547. 550.—*Paley P. & A.* 71.

Ex parte Sargeant, 1 Rose, 153.—*Ex parte Sollers*, 18 Ves. jun. 229. S. P. The proceeds of short bills were ordered to be returned, unless upon enquiry, it should appear that with the knowledge of the party depositing them, or from the habits of dealing between the parties they were to be considered as cash; the onus of proving which lies in the assignees of the bankrupt banker. Per the Lord Chancellor. It is quite clear that short bills in the possession of bankers, are to be considered as still remaining in the possession of the parties by their agents to be specifically returned; and if these bills were written short, the petitioner could have compelled Kensington and Co. so to settle with Hurrough, as not to break in upon his claim. That they were not written short, amounts to nothing, unless there be a concurrence manifested at the time, or to be inferred from the habits of dealing between the parties, that they were to be considered as cash; if they were there with the petitioner's knowledge as cash, and the drawing or entitled to draw upon them as having that credit in cash, he would thereby be precluded from recurring to them specifically; but it is upon them to prove that to be the case, and petitioner is therefore entitled unless they have been carried to his credit as cash, with his knowledge or consent.

Ex parte Pease and others, in the matter of Boldero, 1 Rose, 232. 19 Ves. jun. 25. Bills remitted by a country bank, to their banker in London, remaining at his bankruptcy in his hands undue or unapplied, according to the authority given, or afterwards coming to the hands of the assignees, and the proceeds received, restored, and paid to the remitters, taking up the acceptances on their account, and subject to the banker's lien for any balance by the contract, remaining the property of the remitters, in the hands of the banker, as

held, notwithstanding that the banker according to custom enter the bills as cash in his customers accounts;

6. Effect of bankruptcy, &c.
2d. The property of others.

agent for a particular purpose, namely to hold until due, and receive the proceeds, then first forming an item in the cash account. The circumstance of the bill being written short, is only evidence of a trust proved in this instance by express declaration, or other evidence equivalent. Entries in bankers books not proved to have been communicated to the customer, not evidence against but may be for him. The statute 21 Jac. 1. c. 19. s. 11. not applicable to bills in the hands of a banker written short, or sent for a particular purpose, the trust accounting for the possession being considered as goods in the hands of a factor with the single distinction that he cannot pledge; but if the bills are dealt with before bankruptcy, the money cannot be followed, as if dealt with afterwards it may.

Ex parte Rowton, 17 Ves. jun. 426.—1 Rose, 15. S. C.—Short bills remitted by a country bank, to their banker in London, standing at the bankruptcy of the latter entered short in the usual way, not being due. Ordered, on petition in the bankruptcy, to be delivered up by the assignees to the country bank, who not being creditors when the petition was presented, the cash balance being against them, had since become so, turning it in their favour by taking up the bankrupts acceptances on their account. The order was made without requiring the petition to be amended by stating that fact; but upon consent of the crown holding an extent for acceptances of the bankrupt, on account of duties reserved and remitted specifically by the country bank.

Ex parte Buchanan, in the matter of Kensington, 1 Rose, 280. An order was made upon the provisional assignee to deliver up short bills in the hands of bankers at the time of their bankruptcy, the estate being indemnified against their outstanding acceptances on account of the petitioner.

Ex parte The Burton Bank, &c. 2 Rose, 162. These were petitions presented in the bankruptcy of Messrs. Whitehead, Howard, and Co. bankers in London, by their correspondents in the country, for the purpose of having certain short bills of the petitioners, which were in the possession of the bankrupts at the time of the bankruptcy, delivered up, indemnifying the bankrupts estate against its liability for the petitioners. The right was considered so indisputable that the following orders were taken by consent.

Ex parte Harford. The provisional assignee to retain the cash balances, and the cash received, and on the short bills paid, and also a sufficient number of short bills unpaid to cover the amount of Whitehead and Co's acceptances, and he is to deliver over to Harford and Co. the residue of the said bills, notes, and securities. It is further understood, that the cash and notes retained, are to be given up as Harford, and Co. produce the acceptances cancelled.

Ex parte The Burton Bank.—The provisional assignee consents, that all bills, &c. shall be delivered up upon the petitioner leaving such sum as together with the cash balance, equals the acceptances outstanding.

Note, an extent had been issued on the part of the crown; but there was enough to satisfy it without resorting to the short bills, nor were they scheduled among the property seized under it. See *Ex parte Rowton*, 1 Rose, 15.

6. Effect of bankruptcy, &c.
 2d. The property of others.

charging interest for the time they have to run, provided the balance of the cash account at the time of the bankruptcy, be in favor of the customer'. In a late case² it was held that a customer paying bills, not due, into his bankers in the country, whose practice it was to credit their customers for the amount of such bills, if approved, as cash (charging interest), is entitled to recover back such bills in specie from the bankers becoming bankrupt; the balance of his cash account, independant of such bills, being in his favour at the time of the bankruptcy: and if payment be afterwards received upon such bills by the assignees, they are liable to refund it to the customer in an action for money had and received; and Lord Ellenborough observed, that "every man who pays bills not due into the hands of the banker, places them there, as in the hands of his agent, to obtain payment of them when due. If the banker discount the bill, or advance money upon the credit of it, that alters the case; he then acquires the entire property in it, or has a lien on it pro tanto for his advance. The only difference between the practice stated of *London* and country bankers in this respect is, that the former, if overdrawn; has a lien on the bill deposited with him, though not indorsed; whereas the country banker, who always takes the bill indorsed, has not only a lien upon it, if his account be overdrawn, but has also his legal remedy upon the bill by the indorsement; but neither of them can have any lien on such bills until their account be overdrawn: and here the balance of the cash account at the time of the bankruptcy was in favour of the plaintiffs."

So in the case *Ex parte Sayers*³, where A. abroad commissions B. in London, to send him foreign coin, with particular directions as to the manner and time

¹ *Giles v. Perkins*, 9 East. 12.—*Paley P. & A.* 71.

² *Giles v. Perkins*, 9 East. 12.

³ 5 Ves. jun. 169.

of sending it; and remits bills, which B. discounts, and the coin required not being to be had in England, sends two remittances not equal to the amount of A.'s bills to Lisbon for the purpose of procuring it; with directions, if it cannot be had, to return the bills. The coin not being to be had, bills nearly to the amount of the remittance to Lisbon, not indorsed by the correspondent there, are returned, and B., in the interval, becoming bankrupt, are received by his assignees; A. was held to have a right to those bills upon the particular circumstances, the Lord Chancellor expressing much doubt, whether such right would exist in the case of a remittance to buy goods in the way of trade.

6. Effect of bankruptcy, &c.

2d. The property of others.

And on the same principle in *Hassall v. Smithers*¹, it was held that a remittance in bills and notes for a specific purpose, *viz.* to answer acceptances, received by the administrator, in consequence of the death of the party to whom it was remitted, was not general assets, the specific purpose operating as a lien, which would also be the effect upon a bankruptcy.

But if the holder of bills deliver them to a banker, expressly on the terms of discount, or if, by the course of dealing between the customer and banker, bills received by the latter are understood by both parties as cash minus the discount, and the customer is at liberty to draw on account thereof, beyond the amount of cash in the hands of the banker, then, in the event of the bankruptcy of the banker, the assignees are entitled to the bills².

¹ 12 Ves. jun. 119.

² Ante, 158.—*Carstairs v. Bates*, 3 Campb. 301.

Carstairs and others, assignees of Kensington v. Bates, 3 Campb. 301. Where bankers discount a bill of exchange for a customer, giving him credit for the amount of the bill, and debiting him with the discount, the bill becomes the property of the bankers, and upon their bankruptcy their assignees may maintain an action upon it, although there be no balance due to them from the customer.—Per Lord Ellenborough. "Is it meant seriously to contest the right of the assignees to recover in this action? The bankers were the pur-

6. Effect of bankruptcy, &c.

Insolvent debtors.

A party to a bill or note who has become insolvent may be discharged from liability by the operation of an insolvent act¹. In a late case, where after the first day of July, 1809, mentioned in the Insolvent Debtors Act, 49 Geo. 3. c. 115., a promissory note was given for an antecedent debt, it was decided that as against the payee, the maker would have been discharged under this act, but that he was not as against a person to whom the note was subsequently indorsed².

chasers of this bill. They did not receive it as the agents of Allport. The whole property and interest in the bill vested in themselves, and they stood all risks from the moment of the discount. If the bill had been afterwards stolen or burnt, theirs would have been the loss. In *Giles v. Perkins*, the bankers were mere depositaries, with a lien when the account was overdrawn. The customer there drew on the credit of the bills deposited. Here Allport might have drawn out the amount of the bill, deducting the discount as actual cash, in the same manner as if he had dishonoured the bill with a third person, and then paid in the amount in bank notes. The discount makes the bankers complete purchasers of the bill. The transaction was completed; they had no lien but the thing itself; the bill was as much theirs as any chattel they possessed. 'This very distinction was taken in the case cited; for it was there said, if the banker discount the bill, or advance money on the credit of it, that alters the case; he then acquires the entire property in it, or has a lien on it pro tanto for his advance.'—Verdict for plaintiff.

So in *Paley, P. & A. 72.*, it is laid down thus:—"But in order to prevent the effect of the bankrupts laws from attaching negotiable securities in the hands of a bankrupt agent, there must be a specific appropriation of them, as by lodging of bill for bill, or by the deposit of several in one entire transaction, to answer a particular purpose; for if they are paid in from time to time, upon a general running account, they become the effects of the person to whom they are so paid, and are not reclaimable. The doctrine is thus generally stated by Lord Hardwicke:—"If bills are sent by a correspondent to a merchant here to be received, and the money to be applied to a particular use, and the merchant becomes bankrupt before the money is received on the bills, the correspondent has a special lien in respect of those bills, and the money shall not be divided amongst the creditors at large. But where bills are sent on a general account between the correspondent and the merchant, and as an item in the account, it is otherwise.'"—*Bent v. Puller*, 5 T. R. 494.

¹ *Sharp v. Ifgrave*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 394.—*Lord Kinnard v. Barrow*, 8 T. R. 49.

² *Lucas v. Winton*, 2 Campb. 443.

APPENDIX.

N. B. Throughout the Forms the parts in *Italics* though usually inserted may, and in general should be omitted, as will appear from the notes to each part.

SECT. I.

AFFIDAVITS TO ARREST¹.

In the King's Bench, (or "Common Pleas," or "Exchequer.")

A. B. of ———, gentleman, maketh oath and saith, that *C. D.* is justly and truly indebted to this deponent in the sum of £50, On a promissory note, payee against maker.

On a promissory note made by the said *C. D.* payable to this deponent on demand, (or "at a certain day now past.")

And this deponent further saith, that no tender or offer hath been made to pay the said sum of £50, or any part thereof, in any note or notes of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, expressed to be payable on demand.

Sworn, &c.

On a promissory note, bearing date the ——— day of ———, The like in any other form.
A. D. ———, made by the said *C. D.*, and whereby the said *C. D.* promised to pay, two months after the date thereof, to this deponent, or order, the sum of £50, for value received.

In the sum of £50, as indorsee of a promissory note made by the said *C. D.* and for the payment of the sum of £50 to one *E. F.* or order, at a certain day now past, and by him indorsed to this deponent. Indorsee against maker.

To this deponent, as the indorsee of a promissory note, bearing date, &c. made by one *E. F.* and whereby the said *E. F.* promised to pay, two months after the date thereof, the sum of £50, to the said *C. D.* or order, and the said *C. D.* indorsed the same note to this deponent. Indorsee against indorser.

¹ As to the affidavit to hold to bail, see ante, 446 to 449.

APPENDIX.

On a bill of exchange, payee against acceptor.

Indorsee against acceptor.

Payee against drawer.

Indorsee against drawer.

Indorsee against indorser.

The like where the bill has been refused acceptance.

On a bill of exchange drawn by one E. F. upon, and accepted by the said C. D. and for the payment of the sum of £50 to this deponent, at a certain day now past.

As indorsee of a bill of exchange drawn by one E. F. upon and accepted by the said C. D. and for the payment to the said E. F. or his order, of the sum of £50, at a certain day now past, and by him the said E. F. indorsed to this deponent.

On a bill of exchange drawn by the said C. D. upon one E. F. and for the payment of the sum of £50 to this deponent at a certain day now past.

As indorsee of a bill of exchange drawn by the said C. D. on one E. F. and for the payment of £50 to the order of the said C. D. at a certain day now past, and by him the said C. D. indorsed to this deponent.

As indorsee of a bill of exchange drawn by one E. F. on G. H. and for the payment of the sum of £50 to one I. K. or his order, at a certain day now past, and by the said I. K. indorsed to the said C. D. and by the said C. D. indorsed to this deponent, and which said bill of exchange hath been refused payment.

As indorsee of a bill of exchange drawn by the said C. D. on one E. F. payable to the order of the said C. D. and by him the said C. D. indorsed to this deponent, and which said bill of exchange hath been refused acceptance by the said E. F.

SECT. II.

DECLARATIONS ON PROMISSORY NOTES¹.

Law and Markham.

*Trinity Term,
58th George the Third.*

1. By payee against the maker.

— to wit. A. B. complains of C. D. being in the custody of the Marshal of the Marshalsea of our Lord the now King, before the King himself, of a plea of trespass on the case upon

¹ Only a few of the most common forms are here given: for other precedents and notes, see Chitty on Pleading, 3 vol. 1 to 27. and as to the mode of declaring in general, ante, 449 to 471.

promises: for that whereas the said C. D.¹, heretofore, to wit, on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord 1811², to wit, in London, in the parish of St. Mary le Bow, in the ward of Cheap³, made⁴ his certain promissory note in writing, *his own proper handwriting being thereunto subscribed*⁵, bearing date the day and year

¹ A note made by an agent may be stated to have been made by the principal, because that is its legal operation.—12 Mod. 346.—1 Hen. Bla. 313.—6 T. R. 659.—Bayl. 175.—Ante, 458. Sometimes the declaration states, that the “said C. D. by one E. F. his agent in that behalf, on, &c. at, &c. made, &c.”—If several make a note jointly and severally, and one only be sued, the declaration may state either that the two jointly and severally made the note, &c. or, which is preferable, that the defendant made it without noticing the other party.—Ante, 433, 4.—Cowp. 832.—1 Esp. Rep. 135.—7 T. R. 596.—See post, 628, n. 5.

² This should be the date of the note or bill, or if it have no date, the day it issued, or if that cannot be ascertained, the first day it can be proved to have existed.—10 Mod. 311.—Stra. 22.—2 Show. 422. Bayl. 174.—Ante, 454, 5. And where a second count stated, “that afterwards, to wit, on the day and year aforesaid,” the defendant drew a certain other bill of exchange, payable two months after date, without mentioning any express date in either count, the last count was held sufficient by reference to the first.—3 B. & P. 173. If a note by mistake be dated contrary to the intention of the parties, the declaration should be as follows, ‘on, &c. (the time intended) at, &c. made, &c. bearing date by mistake on, &c. but meant and intended by the said C. D. to be dated on the said, &c. aforesaid, and then and there delivered, &c. by which said note he the said C. D. then and there promised to pay two months after the date thereof (that is to say, after the said, &c. when the said note was so made, and meant and intended to be dated as aforesaid) to the said A. B. &c.’—Ante, 455. If the declaration state that defendant drew a bill, without alleging that it bore date on that day, the day in the declaration is not material, though not under a videlicet.—Coxon v. Lyon, York Lent Assizes, 1810. cor. Thompson, B. 2 Campb. 307. contra if it had alleged that the bill bore date on that day. Ib. 308. Ante, 454.

³ A note, bill, &c. it is said, should be stated to have been made at the place where it bears date, though the venue may be laid in another place for the purpose of trial.—Salk. 669.—Cowp. 177, 8. 6 Mod. 228.—Com. Dig. tit. Action, N. 7. in which case the declaration runs, “at, &c. (the place where the note was made) to wit, at, &c. (the venue).”—But in Bayl. 175. it is said, that *inland* bills, though they bear date at a particular place, may be alleged to have been made at any place in England or Wales.—And see 3 Campb. 304.—Ante, 456.

⁴ 1 Hen. Bla. 313.—Bayl. 176.

⁵ This statement is unnecessary. Ld. Raym. 1376. 1484. 1542.—3 Mod. 307.—Stra. 399. 512.—Bayl. 176.—and in Levy v. Wilson, Sittings after Mich. Term, 1804, the plaintiff was nonsuited, on an allegation that the payee indorsed the bill, *his own proper hand being thereunto subscribed*, it appearing in evidence that the indorsement was by his agent: and see Levy v. Wilson, 5 Esp. Rep. 180. Therefore these words should always be erased. See vide 2 Campb. 305. 50. Variance, when not material, 2 Campb. 307.—Bayl. 182, 3.—Ante, 458.

APPENDIX. *aforsaid¹, and then and there delivered the said note to the said A. B.², and thereby then and there promised to pay at, &c.³, two months after the date thereof, to the said A. B. (by the name and addition of A. B. Esq.⁴,) or order⁵, the sum of £50 for value received⁶. By means whereof, and by force of the statute in such case made and provided⁷, the said C. D. then and there became liable to pay to the said A. B. the said sum of money in the said note specified, according to the tenor and effect of the said note⁸. And being so liable, he the said C. D. in considera-*

¹ These words are not absolutely necessary, see 2 Show. 422.—3 B. & P. 173. ante, n. 2. p. 627, for it shall be intended when the date is material, to have been dated on the day on which it was alleged to have been drawn. See 2 Campb. 307, 8.—Bayl. 177.—Ante, 454, 5.

² The averment of the delivery of the note to the payee is not necessary. 7 T. R. 596.—5 East. 476.—Bayl. 180.—Ante, 462.

³ If a note be payable, in the body of it, at a particular place, it is proper so to describe the contract.—2 Hen. Bla. 510.—Ante, 321. 456. In an action against an indorser, in which case a presentment is necessary, it seems proper, in all cases, to aver a presentment at the particular place.—In an action against the maker of a note, or acceptor of a bill, an allegation of a presentment for payment is never stated, though when the payment is stipulated to be made at a particular place, an averment of presentment is then to be inserted, ante, 321. 456.—In an action by the indorsee of a bill or note, it is necessary to shew that the same authorised a transfer, but this is not necessary in an action at the suit of the payee.—Ante, 460.—5 East. 476.—Infra, note 5.

⁴ The statement of the addition is unnecessary, and should in general be omitted to avoid a variance. Ante, 457.

⁵ The note, &c. is to be stated according to its legal operation, Burr. 323. 2611.—Cowp. 832.—Blacks. 947.—Ante, 456. Thus where the payee is a fictitious person, the note, &c. may be stated to be payable to the person in whose favour the indorsement was made, or to bearer. 1 Hen. Bla. 313. 569.—3 T. R. 182. 481.—Bayl. 179. Ante, 457. And when a note has through mistake been made payable to a wrong person, it may be stated to have been payable to the proper one, 4 T. R. 470.—Bayl. 179. If the bill be "payable to the order of the payee," it may be so stated in the declaration, and there is no occasion for an averment that he made no order, 5 East. 476. and it may be stated to have been made payable to the plaintiff. Bayl. 179.—Ante, 456.—2 Show. 8.—Cowp. 76.—Bul. N. P. 273.—1 Wils. 190.—Bayl. 190. And where the note or bill has been returned to the payee, he may declare in his own right, without stating that fact, ante, 440. and a joint or several note, or a note importing in the body of it to be made by several persons, but signed only by one, may be stated as a several note. Burr. 323.—Stra. 76.—Bayl. 103, 4.—Ante, 433, 4.—Bayl. 177, 8.

⁶ Value delivered instead of value received, not material, 2 Campb. 306.

⁷ 3 & 4 Ann. c. 9. this is usually stated, but it seems unnecessary, 4 T. R. 149.—Ante, 451.—Ld. Raym. 83. 175. 1542.—Carth. 83. 269, 270.—Lutw. 279.

⁸ This is the proper allegation against the parties primarily liable, as when the action is against the maker of a note, or the acceptor of

tion thereof, afterwards, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, undertook, and then and there faithfully promised¹ the said A. B. to pay him the said sum of money in the said note specified, according to the tenor and effect of the said note.

N. B. The breach of the defendant's promise to pay, is in all cases of bills and notes included in the common breach at the end of the money counts, the day in which should always be after the bill or note is due.—Add such counts as may be applicable to the particular case.



For that whereas² the said C. D. heretofore, to wit, on, &c. at, &c. made his certain promissory note in writing, bearing date the same day and year aforesaid, and then and there delivered the said note to the said A. B. by which said note he the said C. D. then and there promised to pay to the said A. B. (by the name and addition of Mr. A. B.), or order, the sum of £15 in manner following; that is to say, the sum of £5 upon the first day of August, then next, the further sum of £5 upon the first day of September, then next, and the further sum of £5 upon the first day of October, then next, *and that in case default should be made in any of the said payments, then the whole of the said sum of £15 then remaining unpaid, should become due on demand.* By means whereof, and by force of the statute in such case made and provided, the said C. D. then and there became liable to pay to the said A. B. the said sum of £15 in the said note specified, according to the tenor and effect of the said note. And being so liable he the said C. D. in consideration thereof afterwards, to wit, on the day and year first above-mentioned, at, &c. aforesaid, undertook and then and there faithfully promised the said A. B. to pay him the said sum of £15 in the said note specified, according to the tenor and effect of the said note³. And the said A. B. in

2. Payee against maker of a note payable by instalments for the whole sum on one default².

a bill. But in an action against the drawer of a bill and the indorser of either a bill or note, as the prior part of the declaration shews a liability to pay *immediately* on the default of acceptance or payment by the party primarily liable, the declaration states the liability and promise to be to pay *on request*. 3 East. 481.—Post, 663, 4, note 1.—Bayl. 190.

¹ The action being founded on a legal liability, no promise need be stated, but it is usually inserted, Carth. 509.—Salk. 128.—Hardr. 486.—1 Stra. 214.—Ante, 458.—Bac. Ab. tit. Assumpsit, F.—Bayl. 190. 1.

² As to these notes, and when the whole is recoverable, see ante, 536, 7.

³ The notes in the preceding form are applicable to this precedent.

APPENDIX. fact saith', that after the making of the said note, to wit, on the 4th day of August next after the making of the said note, *default was made in payment* of the said first-mentioned sum of £5, to wit, at, &c. aforesaid, whereby and according to the tenor and effect of the said note, he the said C. D. then and there became and was liable to pay to the said A. B. the whole of the said sum of £15 in the said note specified, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested.

3. Ditto for one instalment. ²

For that whereas the said C. D. heretofore, to wit, on, &c. at, &c. made his certain promissory note in writing, bearing date, &c.

Same as in the first count as far as the *asterisk*, omitting the words in italics, and then proceed as follows:

And the said A. B. in fact saith, that after the making of the said note, to wit, on the 4th day of August next after the making of the said note, the said first-mentioned sum of £5, part of the said sum of £15 in the said note specified, became and was due and payable from the said C. D. to the said A. B., upon and by virtue of the said note, and which said last-mentioned sum of £5, he the said C. D. then and there ought to have paid to the said A. B., according to the tenor and effect of the said note, and of his said promise and undertaking, so by him made as aforesaid.

4. First indorsee against maker. ³

Indorsement.

For that whereas the said C. D., heretofore, to wit, on, &c. at, &c. made his certain promissory note in writing, bearing date the day and year aforesaid, *and then and there delivered the said note to one E. F.*, and thereby then and there promised two months after the date thereof, to pay to the said E. F. (by the name and addition of Mr. E. F.) or order, the sum of £50 for value received. And the said E. F. to whom or to whose order the payment of the said sum of money, in the said promissory note specified, was thereby

² If all the instalments in the note be due by effluxion of time, no averment of default is necessary.

² The notes in the first form are here in general applicable.

³ The notes in the first precedent are applicable to this. When the declaration is at the suit of an indorsee of an administrator, there is no occasion to state the letters of administration. Willes, 359. An indorsement by agent may be stated to have been made by the principal, without noticing the agency, ante, 457, 8.

directed to be made, after the making of the said promissory note, and before the payment of the said sum of money therein specified, to wit, on, &c.¹ aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, indorsed the said promissory note, *his own proper hand-writing being to such indorsement subscribed*², and thereby then and there ordered and appointed the said sum of money, in the said promissory note specified³, to be paid to the said A. B.⁴, and then and there delivered the said promissory note so indorsed as aforesaid, to the said A. B.⁵ * Of which said indorsement so made on the said note as aforesaid, the said C. D. afterwards, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, had notice⁶. By means whereof, and by force of the statute in such case made and provided, the said C. D. then and there became liable to pay to the said A. B. the said sum of money in the said note specified, according to the tenor and effect thereof, and of the said indorsement so made thereon as aforesaid; and being so liable, he the said C. D., in consideration thereof, afterwards, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, undertook and then and there faithfully promised the said A. B. to pay him the said sum of money in the said note specified, according to the tenor and effect of the said note, and of the said indorsement so made thereon as aforesaid.

¹ If there be a date to the indorsement, this should be the precise day, but in no other case is it material. When the indorsement was made after the bill or note became due, it is more proper not to state that it was made "*before the bill, &c. became due*," but the declaration should be as above: a mistake, however, in this respect, is not material.—*Young v. Wright*, Campb. 139.—*Bayl.* 181, 182.

² This allegation is not advisable, ante, 458.

³ On an indorsement for less than the full sum mentioned in the note or bill, the declaration should shew that the residue was paid, 12 Mod. 213.—*Ld. Raym.* 360.—*Carth.* 466.—*Salk.* 68.

⁴ Sometimes the words "or order" are here added, but the bill being once negotiable this is unnecessary. A full and blank indorsement are described in the same manner.

⁵ The statement of the delivery is not necessary, 7 T. R. 596.—Ante, 628, n. 2. If the plaintiff claim as a remote indorsee, every indorsement is usually set forth in one count, but where the first indorsement is in blank (i. e. merely with the indorser's name,) in order to avoid the necessity of proving all the indorsers hand-writings, it is prudent to add a count stating the plaintiff to be the immediate indorsee of the first indorser, ante, 461.—*Pracock v. Rhodes*, Doug. 633.—*Kyd.* 206; and where there are several indorsers of a bill between the payee and the defendant, the plaintiff may declare on an indorsement by the payee to the defendant, and by the defendant to the plaintiff, without stating the intermediate indorsements, 4 Esp. Rep. 210.

⁶ This also is unnecessary, 1 B. & P. 625.—*Prac. Reg.* 358.

APPENDIX.

5. Statement of a second and of subsequent indorsements.

(When the declaration is at the suit of a second or subsequent indorsee, the statement of the second indorsement¹ is introduced at the asterisk in the last precedent, and runs as follows.) And the said G. H. (the first indorsee,) to whom or to whose order the payment of the said sum of money in the said promissory note specified, was by the said indorsement directed to be made after the making of the said promissory note, and before the payment of the said sum of money therein specified, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, indorsed the said promissory note, and thereby then and there ordered and appointed the said sum of money therein specified, to be paid to the said A. B., and then and there delivered the said promissory note so indorsed as aforesaid, to the said A. B. By means whereof, &c. (stating the defendant's liability and promise to pay as usual, at the suit of an indorsee.)

6. Short statement of an indorsement.

In order to save expense when there are several indorsements, and particularly when it may be expedient to add a second count on the same bill or note, the following concise statement of the indorsements may be adopted.

And the said E. F. then and there indorsed and delivered the said promissory note to the said G. H. And the said G. H. then and there indorsed and delivered the said promissory note to the said A. B.

7. Indorsee against indorser, the maker having refused payment.

For that whereas² one E. F. heretofore, to wit, on, &c. at, &c. made his certain promissory note in writing, bearing date the day and year aforesaid, and then and there delivered the said note to the said C. D., by which said note the said E. F. then and there promised two months after the date thereof, to pay to the said C. D. (by the name and addition of Mr. C. D.) or order, the sum of £50 for value received. And the said C. D. to whom or to whose order the payment of the said sum of money in the said note specified, was to be made after the making of the said note, and before the payment of the said sum therein specified, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, indorsed the said note, by which said indorsement, he the said C. D. then and there ordered and appointed the said sum of money in the said note specified to be paid to the said A. B. and then and there delivered the said

¹ It is not necessary to shew, that the first indorsement was to the second indorser, or order. Willes, 562.—Comyns, 311, 12.

² The greater part of the notes in the preceding precedents are applicable to this.

APPENDIX.

Averment of presentment for payment.

note to the said A. B.¹ And the said A. B. in fact saith, that afterwards, when the said note became due and payable according to the tenor and effect thereof, to wit, on, &c.² at, &c. aforesaid, (the place where payable,) to wit, at, &c. aforesaid, (the venue,) the said note so indorsed as aforesaid, was *duly*³ presented and shewn to the said E. F.⁴ for payment thereof, and the said E. F. then and there had notice of the said indorsement so made thereon as aforesaid⁵, was then and there requested to pay the said sum of money in the said note specified, according to the tenor and effect of the said note, and of the said indorsement so made thereon as aforesaid⁶; but that the said E. F. did not nor would at the said time when the said note was so presented and shewn to him for payment thereof, as aforesaid, or at any time afterwards, pay the said sum of money therein specified, or any part thereof, but wholly neglected and refused so to do; of all which said several premises the said C. D. afterwards, to wit, on the day and year last aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, had notice⁷. By means whereof

¹ As to the statement of indorsements, see ante, 630, 1, 2.

² The third day of grace, 4 T. R. 148, unless it be a Sunday, Good Friday, or Christmas-day, in which case, the note or bill is due the preceding day. This day is material, Doug. 679, unless there be an express averment that the presentment was made when the bill became due as above, in which case a mistake in the day after the videlicet, would not be material, Bayley, 188. The better way may perhaps be merely to allege that afterwards, to wit, "on, &c. at, &c. the bill was duly presented for payment," omitting the words in italic, see *Patience v. Townley*, 2 Smith's Rep. 224.

³ If there be any doubt as to the proof of a presentment on the day the note was due, omit this word.

⁴ Though in an action against the maker of a note or acceptor of a bill, it is otherwise, yet in an action against the indorser a presentment for payment must be stated, or that the maker or acceptor could not be found, or some excuse for the neglect, or the omission will be fatal even after verdict, 2 Show. 1010.—Doug. 654. 680.—Bayl. 188.—2 Esp. Rep. 551. The allegations should correspond precisely with the facts and evidence; for where the declaration averred in the usual form, a presentment for acceptance or payment and refusal, the plaintiff cannot give in evidence that the drawee or maker could not be found. If the drawee or maker cannot be found, it is sufficient to aver generally that he was not found, without stating that inquiry was made after him. Carth. 509.—Bayl. 109. See the precedents, post, 642, 3, on Inland Bills, as to the form of the averments in these cases.

⁵ Notice of the indorsement need not be averred, 1 B. & P. 625.

⁶ A subsequent promise by the defendant to pay, is evidence of a presentment to the maker or drawee for payment, and no special count is necessary, 7 East. 231.

⁷ This allegation or an averment, shewing that it may be dispensed with, is necessary, and the omission would be fatal after verdict. *Hushton v. Aspinall*, Doug. 654. 680. If it be doubtful whether the

APPENDIX. and by force of the statute in such case made and provided, the said C. D. then and there became liable to pay to the said A. B. the said sum of money in the said note specified, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested¹. And being so liable, he the said C. D. in consideration thereof, afterwards, to wit, on the day and year last aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, undertook, and then and there faithfully promised the said A. B. to pay him the said sum of money in the said note specified, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested².

SECT. III.

DECLARATIONS ON CHECKS ON BANKERS.

2. By the payee of a check against the drawer.

FOR that whereas the said C. D. heretofore, to wit, on³, &c. at, &c. according to the usage and practice of merchants, made his certain draft or order in writing for the payment of money, commonly called a check on a banker, bearing date the same day and year aforesaid, and then and there directed the said draft or order to certain persons by the names, style, and firm of Messrs. E. F. and G. H. and thereby then and there required the said Messrs. E. F. and G. H. to pay to the said A. B. (*by the name and addition of Mr. A. B.*) or bearer, £50, and then and there delivered the said draft or order to the said A. B. And the said A. B. avers, that after the making of the said (*) draft or order and before the payment of the said sum of money therein specified, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, the said draft or order was presented and shewn to the said Messrs. E. F. and G. H. for payment thereof, according to the said usage and practice of merchants, and the said Messrs. E. F. and G. H. were then and there requested to pay the said sum of money therein specified, according to the tenor and effect thereof; but that the said Messrs. E. F. and G. H. did not nor would at the said time when the said draft

giving due notice can be proved, it is expedient to add a count stating an excuse for the not giving notice, such as the want of effects, &c. in the hands of the maker; see the form, post, 642, 3. Inland Bills.

¹ Ante, 628, n. 8.—Bayl. 190.

² Ante, 628, n. 8.

³ As to the date, see ante, 627, n. 2.

or order was so shewn and presented to them for payment thereof as aforesaid, or at any time afterwards, pay the said sum of money therein specified, or any part thereof, but then and there wholly neglected and refused so to do, whereof the said C. D. afterwards, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, had notice¹. By means whereof he the said C. D. then and there became liable to pay to the said A. B. the said sum of money in the said draft or order specified, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested². And being so liable, he the said C. D. in consideration thereof afterwards, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, undertook, and then and there faithfully promised the said A. B. to pay him the said sum of money in the said draft or order specified, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested³.



For that whereas⁴ the said C. D. heretofore, to wit, on, &c. at, &c. according to the usage and practice of merchants, made his certain draft or order in writing for the payment of money, commonly called a check, bearing date the same day and year aforesaid, and then and there directed the said draft or order to certain persons, by the names, style, and firm of Messrs. &c.; and thereby then and there requested the said Messrs. &c. to pay to one E. F. or bearer, £50, and then and there delivered the said draft or order, to the said E. F. [and the said E. F. to whom, or to the bearer of the said draft or order, the payment of the said sum of money therein specified, was thereby directed to be made after the making of the said draft or order, and before the payment of the said sum of money therein specified, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, duly transferred, assigned, and delivered the said draft or order, to the said A. B. who thereby then and there became and was, and from thence hitherto hath been and still is the lawful bearer thereof, and entitled to the payment of the said sum of money therein specified.] And the said A. B. avers, that after the making of the said, &c. (*as in the preceding form from the asterisk to the end*).

9. By the bearer
against the
drawer.

¹ As to the necessity for this averment and the expediency in some cases of averring an excuse for the neglect to give notice, ante, 663, 4, note 7.

² Ante, 628, n. 8.

³ Ante, 628, n. 8.

⁴ The notes to the preceding precedent are applicable to this.

SECT. IV.

DECLARATIONS ON INLAND BILLS *.

10. Payee against acceptor.

FOR that whereas one E. F.¹, heretofore, to wit, on, &c.², at, &c.³ according to the usage and custom of merchants from time immemorial, used and approved of within this kingdom⁴, made his certain bill of exchange in writing, *his own proper hand being thereunto subscribed*⁵, bearing date the day and year aforesaid⁶, and then and there directed the said bill of exchange to the said C. D. (by the name and addition of C. D. Esq.⁷), by which said bill of exchange he the said E. F. then and there requested the said C. D. two months after the date thereof, to pay to the said A. B. (by the name and addition of A. B. Esq.⁸) or order, the sum of £50⁹, value received, and then and there delivered the same to the said A. B.¹⁰. Which said bill of exchange the said

* Only a few precedents are given here; see other forms, 3 Chitty on Plead. 30 to 52, and as to the mode of declaring in general, ante, 449 to 471.

¹ As to this allegation, see ante, 627, n. 1. If it be drawn in the name of a firm, say, certain persons using the names, style, and "firm of A. B. and Co. on, &c. at, &c." It is not advisable to state the names of the individuals composing the firm, unless the action be against them, when they must be stated. If drawn by one person in the name of a firm, it may be stated to have been drawn by certain persons using the name, style, and firm, &c. although in truth drawn only by one person. 4 Campb. 78.

² As to the statement of the date, ante, 627, n. 2.

³ As to the statement of the place where made, ante, 627, n. 3.

⁴ This allegation is unnecessary, Lord Raym. 88. 175. 1542.—Carth. 83. 269, 270.—Lutw. 279. ante, 451.

⁵ As to the impropriety of this allegation, ante, 458.—Bayl. 176.

⁶ As to the statement of the date, ante, 627, n. 3.—2 Campb. 307, in notes.

⁷ The statement of direction seems in general unnecessary, ante, 457. If stated a variance would be fatal. It may be stated according to the legal effect, and in an action against the acceptor, in a bill directed to him, or in his absence to J. S. the conditional direction to J. S. need not be stated, 12 Mod. 447.; and if a bill be directed to two, and accepted only by one, it need only be stated to have been directed to him, Bayl. 177.

⁸ In general unnecessary, and sometimes occasions a variance, ante, 457. 628, n. 4.

⁹ As to the statement of the sum, see ante, 78, 86. If the sum in the superscription vary from that in the body, it may be advisable to insert two counts varying the statement.

¹⁰ As to this averment, ante, 628, n. 2. If at the suit of the drawer these words should be omitted, but will not prejudice though the acceptor's name be inserted, 5 East. 476.

C. D. afterwards, to wit, on, &c.¹, aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, upon sight thereof accepted, according to the said usage and custom of merchants² (*). By means whereof, and according to the said usage and custom of merchants, he the said C. D. then and there became liable to pay to the said A. B. the said sum of money in the said bill of exchange specified, according to the tenor and effect of the said bill of exchange, and of his said acceptance thereof³. And being so liable, he the said C. D. in consideration thereof afterwards, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, undertook, and then and there faithfully promised the said A. B. to pay him the said sum of money in the said bill of exchange specified, according to the tenor and effect of the said bill of exchange, and of his said acceptance thereof⁴.

¹ The acceptance of a bill after sight, should be stated according to the fact, and when the drawee dates his acceptance on a different day from the date of the bill, the real day of acceptance should be inserted.

² An acceptance need only be stated in an action against the acceptor, or where an accepted bill was payable after sight. When the time of payment depends on the presentment, it should be the day of the presentment; but in other cases, exactness as to the day is not material. It has, however, been adjudged, that if the plaintiff declare in terms, that the acceptance was *before the bill became due*, and that the defendant accepted to pay according to the tenor and effect of the bill, and it appear on the evidence, that the acceptance in fact was after the day of payment, the plaintiff cannot recover.—Lord Raym. 364.—Mod. 212.—But it is said, that the propriety of this decision may be doubtful. Bayl. 181.—1 Campb. 139.—When the bill is accepted, payable at a particular place, it is thus stated, “accepted, &c. according to the usage and custom of merchants, payable at, &c.” As to this, see ante, 321 to 332. If the defendant accepted the bill by agent, the declaration may state the acceptance to have been made by the principal, 2 Campb. 604.—12 Mod. 364; but it frequently runs as follows: “which said bill of exchange he the said defendant afterwards, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, by one E. F. his agent in that behalf, upon sight thereof accepted, according, &c.” If the acceptance were conditional or qualified, it must be described accordingly. 4 Campb. 176. In an action against an acceptor, a presentment for payment is never stated, unless where he accepted it payable at a different place. An averment that the acceptor’s handwriting was subscribed is not advisable, ante, 458. 627. n. 5.

³ This statement of the liability and consequent promise is not absolutely necessary, see ante, 458. 629. n. 1.—In an action against the acceptor of a bill or maker of a promissory note not payable on demand, instead of alleging that the defendant became liable, and promised to pay when he should be thereunto afterwards requested, he is stated to have become liable, and promised to pay according to the tenor and effect of the bill, and acceptance in the one case and of the note in the other.—Bayl. 190.—Ante, 628. n. 8.

⁴ Ante, 628, n. 8.—Bayl. 190. The statement of the promise (which is a legal inference from the liability), is to correspond with the state-

APPENDIX.

11. By first indorsee against acceptor.

When the declaration is at the suit of an indorsee, proceed as in the preceding precedent as far as the asterisk, and then state the indorsement as follows:

And the said E. F. (the payee, or the drawer, if payable to his own order,) to whom or to whose order the payment of the said sum of money in the said bill of exchange specified, was to be made after the making of the said bill of exchange, and before the payment of the said sum of money therein specified, to wit, on, &c. ¹ aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, according to the said usage and custom of merchants, indorsed the said bill of exchange, and thereby then and there ordered and appointed the said sum of money in the said bill of exchange specified to be paid to the said A. B. and then and there delivered the said bill of exchange so indorsed as aforesaid to the said A. B. By means whereof, &c. (state the liability and promise, as in the last precedent).

12. The like by the second or subsequent indorsee.

As to the statement of indorsements in general, and of a second or subsequent indorsement, and of the mode of stating an indorsement concisely, *vid. ante*, 632, and 461.

13. By drawer against acceptor on a bill payable to a third person, and returned to the plaintiff, and taken up by him.

For that whereas the said A. B. heretofore, to wit, on, &c. at, &c. according to the usage and custom of merchants from time immemorial, used and approved of within this kingdom, made his certain bill of exchange in writing, bearing date the day and year aforesaid, and then and there directed the said bill of exchange to the said C. D. (by the name and addition of Mr. C. D.) by which said bill of exchange, he the said A. B. then and there requested the said C. D. two months after the date thereof, to pay to one

ment of such liability. The acceptor of a bill, and the maker of a note, being the persons primarily liable, are stated to be liable, and to have promised to pay according to the *tenor and effect* of their original undertaking; but in a declaration against the drawer or indorser of a bill, or the indorser of a note, as it appears from the prior allegations in the declaration, that by the default of the party primarily liable, the defendant has become liable to pay *immediately on request*, (see 3 East. 481.—Ante, 298.) the declaration accordingly states his liability as well as his promise, to be to pay *on request*. Ante, 628, n. 8.

¹ As to the statement of the time of the indorsement, see ante, 631, n. 1.

* Most of the notes to the prior precedents are applicable. As to this declaration, see ante, 440, n. 5.

E. F. (by the name and addition of Mr. E. F.) or order, the sum of £50 value received, and then and there delivered the said bill of exchange to the said E. F., which said bill of exchange he the said C. D. afterwards, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, upon sight thereof accepted, according to the said usage and custom of merchants. And the said A. B. avers, that afterwards, *when the said bill of exchange became due and payable according to the tenor and effect thereof, to wit, on, &c.¹, at, &c.², aforesaid*, and the said bill of exchange so accepted as aforesaid, was *duly*³ presented and shewn to the said C. D. for payment thereof, according to the said usage and custom of merchants, and the said C. D. was then and there requested to pay the said sum of money therein specified, according to the tenor and effect of the said bill of exchange, and of his said acceptance thereof, but that the said C. D. did not, nor would, at the said time when the said bill of exchange was so presented and shewn to him for payment thereof as aforesaid, or at any time afterwards, pay the said sum of money therein specified, or any part thereof, but then and there wholly neglected and refused so to do, and thereupon afterwards, to wit, on, &c.⁴, at, &c. aforesaid, the said bill of exchange was returned to the said A. B. for non-payment thereof, and he the said A. B. as drawer of the said bill of exchange, was then and there called upon: and forced and obliged to pay, and did then and there pay to the said E. F. the said sum of money in the said bill of exchange specified, together with a large sum of money, to wit, the sum of £——⁵ for interest thereon, whereof the said C. D. afterwards, to wit, on, &c. last, aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, had notice. By means whereof, and according to the said usage and custom of merchants, he the said C. D. then and there became liable to pay to the said A. B. the said sums of money, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested; and being so liable, he the said C. D. in consideration thereof, afterwards, to wit, on, &c. last aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, undertook and then and there faithfully promised the said A. B. to pay him the said sums of money, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested.

¹ Ante, 633. n. 2. 3.—See form, 1 Wils. 185.—4 Bro. P. C. 604.

² If the venue be different to the place where the presentment should be made, state the latter place and the venue afterwards under *videlicet*.

³ If the fact be doubtful, omit the word “duly,” ante, 633, n. 2.

⁴ Some day about the real time of payment by the plaintiff.

⁵ Any sufficient sum to cover the real amount.

APPENDIX.

14. By payee
against drawer,
the drawee hav-
ing refused ac-
ceptance.

For that whereas the said C. D. heretofore, to wit, on, &c. at, &c. according to the usage and custom of merchants from time immemorial, used and approved of within this kingdom, made his certain bill of exchange in writing, bearing date the day and year aforesaid, and then and there directed the said bill of exchange to one E. F., (by the name and addition of Mr. E. F., of, &c.) by which said bill of exchange, he the said C. D. then and there requested the said E. F.; two months after the date thereof, to pay the said A. B., (by the name and addition of Mr. A. B. &c.) or order, the sum of £50 value received, and then and there delivered the said bill of exchange to the said A. B. ¹.

And the said A. B. avers, that afterwards, and before the payment of the said sum of money, in the said bill of exchange specified, to wit, on the day and year aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, the said bill of exchange was presented and shewn to the said E. F. for his acceptance thereof, according to the said usage and custom of merchants ², and the said E. F. was then and there requested to accept the same, but that the said E. F. did not, nor would, at the said time when the said bill of exchange was so presented and shewn to him for his acceptance thereof as aforesaid, or at any time afterwards, accept the same, or pay the said sum of money therein specified, or any part thereof, but then and there neglected and refused so to do ³, of all which said several premises, the said C. D. afterwards, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, had notice ⁴.

By means whereof, and according to the said usage and custom of merchants, he the said C. D. then and there became liable to pay the said A. B. the said sum of money in the said bill of exchange specified, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested ⁵. And being so liable, he the said C. D. in

¹ The notes in the precedents, ante, 636, and 638, are in general applicable to this.

² If the declaration be at the suit of an indorsee against an indorser, here follow the indorsements as in the precedent, ante, 638, and as to which, vide ante, 632.

³ A subsequent promise by the drawer or indorser to pay, is evidence of this presentment, and no special count is necessary, 7 East. 231.

⁴ It is not necessary to allege, that an inland bill has been protested, unless the plaintiff seek to recover interest, &c. in which case it must be stated and proved, see 2 Esp. Rep. 550.—2 Stra. 910.—Bayl. 189. The statement of the protest for non-acceptance of an inland bill, is similar to that in the case of a foreign bill, see post, 646, 7.

⁵ As to the averment of notice, see ante, 633.

⁶ The drawer and indorser are liable to pay immediately on the refusal to accept, 3 East. 481, and therefore the liability and the promise are stated to be, to pay on request. Bayl. 190.—Ante, 634.

consideration thereof, afterwards, to wit, on, &c. last aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, undertook, and then and there faithfully promised the said A. B. to pay him the said sum of money in the said bill of exchange specified, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested.

For that whereas the said C. D. on, &c. at, &c. according to the usage and custom of merchants from time immemorial, used and approved of within this kingdom, made his certain bill of exchange in writing, bearing date the day and year aforesaid, and then and there directed the said bill of exchange to one E. F. (by the name and addition of Mr. E. F., &c.) by which said bill of exchange he the said C. D. then and there requested the said E. F. two months after the date thereof, to pay to the said A. B. or order, the sum of £50 value received, and then and there delivered the said bill of exchange to the said A. B., *which said bill of exchange the said E. F. afterwards, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, upon sight thereof, accepted according to the said usage and custom of merchants*¹.

15. Payee or indorsee against drawer or indorser, acceptor having refused payment.*

And the said A. B. avers, that afterwards, *when the said bill of exchange became due and payable, according to the tenor and effect thereof*, to wit, on, &c.², aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, the said bill of exchange was *duly* presented and shewn to the said E. F. for payment thereof, according to the said usage and custom of merchants³, and the said E. F. was then and there requested to pay the said sum of money therein specified, according to the tenor and effect of the said bill of exchange, and of his said acceptance thereof, but that the said E. F. did not, nor would at the said time, when the said bill of exchange was so presented and shewn to him for payment thereof as aforesaid, or at any time afterwards, pay the said sum of money therein specified, or any part thereof, but wholly neglected and refused so to do, of all

* The notes to the precedents, ante, 636. are here applicable.

¹ When the action is for default of payment, the statement of the acceptance is in general unnecessary, unless in the case of bills payable after sight, Bayl. 188. And if there be any doubt as to the proof, it is not advisable to state it, for if it be stated it must be proved, 2 Campb. 474.—Ante, 459. 484. n. 2.

² See ante, 633.—Bayl. 181. 188.

³ See ante, 633. n. 3.—Bayl. 188. a subsequent promise by the defendant to pay, is evidence of a presentment, 7 East, 231.

APPENDIX. which said several premises, the said C. D. afterwards, to wit, on, &c. last aforesaid, at, &c. had notice ¹.

By means whereof, and according to the said usage and custom of merchants, the said C. D. then and there became liable to pay to the said A. B. the said sum of money, in the said bill of exchange specified, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested ². And being so liable, he the said C. D. in consideration thereof, afterwards, to wit, on, &c. last aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, undertook, and then and there faithfully promised the said A. B. to pay him the said sum of money in the said bill of exchange specified, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested.

16. Payee, &c.
against drawer,
where the drawee
could not be
found, either to
accept or pay ³.

First count as usual for non-payment, as ante, 641. The second in the same form, as far as the end of the statement of the delivery of the bill to the payee, ante, 641, and then proceed as follows:

And the said A. B. avers, that afterwards and before the payment of the said sum of money, in the said bill of exchange specified, to wit, on the day and year aforesaid, and on divers other days and times, between that day and the time when the said bill of exchange became due and payable, according to the tenor and effect thereof, and also at the time when the said bill of exchange did become due and payable, to wit, on, &c. diligent search and inquiry was made ⁴ after the said E. F. at, &c. ⁵, to wit, at, &c. ⁶, in order that the said last-mentioned bill of exchange might be presented and shewn to him the said E. F. for his acceptance and payment thereof, according to the said usage and custom of merchants, but that the said E. F. could not on such search and in-

¹ As to this averment, see ante, 633. n. 7.—Bayl. 189.

² As to this statement of the liability and promise, ante, 634, 640.

³ The necessity for this count appears from the case of *Leeson v. Pigott*, *Sittings after Trin. 1788*. Bayl. 187, in which it was held, that under a declaration, stating that the bill was presented, and acceptance or payment refused, the plaintiff could not give in evidence that the drawee could not be found. See ante, 633. n. 4. However a subsequent promise by the defendant to pay, will be sufficient evidence of a presentment to the drawee, and in such case no special count is necessary, 7 East. 231.

⁴ Though this is the usual allegation, it is sufficient to allege generally, that the drawee was not found, without shewing that any inquiry was made after him, ante, 633. n. 4.—Carth. 509.

⁵ The place where the bill is payable.

⁶ The *venue*.

quiry be found, nor hath he, at any time since the making of the said bill of exchange, hitherto accepted the same, or paid the said sum of money therein specified, or any part thereof, of all which said several premises, the said C. D. afterwards, to wit, on, &c. last aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, had notice. By means whereof, &c. (the defendant's liability and promise to pay on request are stated, as ante, 640, 1, 2.)

When it is doubtful whether due notice of non-acceptance or non-payment can be proved to have been given to the drawer or indorser, and those parties had no effects in the hands of the drawee, or gave no value for the bill; it is proper in a declaration against such drawer or indorser, after the usual count stating that notice was given to add a count¹ proceeding as usual to the end of the averment of the presentment for payment, and of the drawee's refusal, (see ante, 641. and see 12 East. 171.) and then as follows:

17. Payee, &c. against drawer, &c. on default of payment, where the drawee had no effects of the drawer.

And the said A. B. avers, that at the time of the making of the said last-mentioned bill of exchange as aforesaid, and from thence, until, and at the time when the same was so presented and shewn to the said E. F. for payment thereof as aforesaid, he the said E. F. had not in his hands any effects of the said C. D. nor had he received any consideration from the said C. D. for the acceptance or payment, by him the said E. F. of the said last-mentioned bill of exchange, nor hath he the said C. D. sustained any damage for or by reason of his not having had notice of the non-payment, by the said E. F. of the said sum of money, in the said last-mentioned bill of exchange specified; of all which said several premises he the said C. D. afterwards, to wit, on, &c. last aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, had notice, by means, &c. (state the liability and promise to pay on request, as ante, 642.)

¹ This form varies according to the circumstances in each particular case. In an action against an indorser, it must be shewn, that the drawer and prior indorsers, as well as the acceptor, had no effects, &c. It should seem that an averment of notice should be strictly proved, and therefore this count is frequently necessary, but in *Boulager against Talleyrand*, 2 Esp. Rep. 550, the want of effects was admitted in evidence under the general count.

APPENDIX.

Form of averment of demand of a fresh bill, where a bill has been lost ¹.

Proceed as usual against drawer of a bill, at the suit of indorsee, stating the bill, acceptance, and indorsement, to plaintiff, and then as follows.

And the said A. B. in fact saith, that afterwards and before the said last-mentioned bill of exchange became due and payable, according to the tenor and effect thereof, to wit, on the day and year last aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, the said last-mentioned bill of exchange was casually destroyed, (or "lost,") and the said persons so using the style and firm of E. F. (the "drawees,") then and there well knew the same, and the said C. D. then and there had notice that the said last-mentioned bill of exchange was so destroyed, (or "lost,") as aforesaid, and was thereupon then and there and before the said sum of money, in the said last-mentioned bill of exchange specified, became due and payable, according to the tenor and effect thereof, requested by the said A. B. to give to him the said A. B. another bill of exchange, of the same tenor with the said last-mentioned bill of exchange so destroyed, (or "lost,") as aforesaid; but the said C. D. then and there wholly refused so to do. And the said A. B. avers, that afterwards, and when the said sum of money, in the said last-mentioned bill of exchange specified, became due and payable, according to the tenor and effect thereof, to wit, on, &c. at, &c. at London aforesaid, in the parish and ward aforesaid, payment of the said sum of money, in the said last-mentioned bill of exchange specified, was duly requested of the said persons so using the style and firm of E. F. (the drawees), and also at the place appointed by the said last-mentioned acceptance for the payment thereof as aforesaid, (that is to say,) at, &c. according to the tenor and effect of the said last-mentioned bill of exchange, and of the said acceptance thereof; and the said indorsement so made thereon as aforesaid. But the said persons so using the style and firm of E. F. did not, nor would nor did any other person or persons when payment of the said sum of money in the said last-mentioned bill of exchange specified, was requested as aforesaid, or at any time since pay the said sum of money in the said last-mentioned bill of exchange specified, or any part thereof, but wholly neglected and refused so to do, of all which said several premises last-mentioned, the said C. D. afterwards, to wit, on the day and year last aforesaid there had notice.

¹ This form is sometimes adopted, it may assist in framing a count in such a case, but quære, if it should not be averred that plaintiff was ready to give sufficient indemnity, &c. according to the statute. See ante, 196.

SECT. V.

APPENDIX.

DECLARATIONS ON FOREIGN BILLS.*

FOR that whereas one E. F.¹ on, &c.² in parts beyond the seas, to wit, at, &c. that is to say, at, &c.³, according to the usage and custom of merchants from time immemorial, used and approved of⁴, made his certain bill of exchange in writing, *his own proper hand being thereunto subscribed*⁵, bearing date the day and year aforesaid, and then and there directed the said bill of exchange to the said C. D. (by the name and addition of C. D. Esq.)⁶, by which said bill of exchange, he the said E. F. then and there requested the said C. D.⁷ two months after the date, (or “at two usances, that is to say⁸,”) of that his first of exchange, second and third of the same tenor and date not paid⁹, to pay to the said A. B. (by the name and addition of A. B. Esq.) or order¹⁰, the sum of “£50 value received, and then and there delivered the said bill of exchange to the said A. B., which said bill of exchange he the said C. D. &c. (state the acceptance and the liability to pay and promise as in preceding precedent).

18. Payee against acceptor.

* Only a few common forms are here given; see other precedents, 3 Chitty on Plead. 52 to 63, and how to declare in general, see ante, 449 to 471.

¹ As to the statement by whom drawn, ante, 627. n. 1.

² As to the statement of the time and date, ante, 627. n. 2, 3, 4.

³ Statement of the place where made, and the venue, ante, 627. n. 3.

⁴ Unnecessary, ante, 630. n. 4. 451.

⁵ Unnecessary, and not advisable, ante, 458. 636. n. 5.—Bayl. 176.

⁶ Not necessary, ante, 457. 636.

⁷ The statement of the bill is to be according to its legal operation, ante, 452.

⁸ If the bill be payable at usance, the length of it should be averred as follows, “at two usances, that is to say, at two months after the date thereof,” Salk. 131.—3 Keb. 645.—Bayl. 108.—Ante, 456.

Bayl. 184, 5. and the omission will be fatal on special demurrer, id. ibid. Bayl. 184. Sometimes the averment of usance is more formal, and is inserted just before the statement of the presentment for payment thus, “and the said plaintiff in fact says, that an usance mentioned in any bill of exchange drawn in London, and payable at Venice, is, and at the several times aforesaid was, three months from the date of the said bill, and no other time whatever,” Bayl. 184, 5.

⁹ It is said, that in an action on a bill consisting of several parts, if the plaintiff have each part, it may be doubted whether he need take notice of this condition, because all the parts collectively make an unconditional bill, and where he has not each part, it should seem more correct to state that the drawer made his certain bill of exchange in writing in three parts, his proper hand being subscribed to each of the said parts, bearing date, &c. and directed, &c. and by one of the said parts requested, &c. Bayl. 172, 177. 180, 184.

¹⁰ Ante, 628.

“When the money in which the bill is payable is foreign, it is usual, though perhaps unnecessary.—1 Wils. 185.—4 Bro. Parl. Cas. 604.),

APPENDIX. and by force of the statute in such case made and provided, the said C. D. then and there became liable to pay to the said A. B. the said sum of money in the said note specified, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested¹. And being so liable, he the said C. D. in consideration thereof, afterwards, to wit, on the day and year last aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, undertook, and then and there faithfully promised the said A. B. to pay him the said sum of money in the said note specified, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested².

SECT. III.

DECLARATIONS ON CHECKS ON BANKERS.

2. By the payee of a check against the drawer.

FOR that whereas the said C. D. heretofore, to wit, on³, &c. at, &c. according to the usage and practice of merchants, made his certain draft or order in writing for the payment of money, commonly called a check on a banker, bearing date the same day and year aforesaid, and then and there directed the said draft or order to certain persons by the names, style, and firm of Messrs. E. F. and G. H. and thereby then and there required the said Messrs. E. F. and G. H. to pay to the said A. B. (*by the name and addition of Mr. A. B.*) or bearer, £50, and then and there delivered the said draft or order to the said A. B. And the said A. B. avers, that after the making of the said (*) draft or order and before the payment of the said sum of money therein specified, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, the said draft or order was presented and shewn to the said Messrs. E. F. and G. H. for payment thereof, according to the said usage and practice of merchants, and the said Messrs. E. F. and G. H. were then and there requested to pay the said sum of money therein specified, according to the tenor and effect thereof; but that the said Messrs. E. F. and G. H. did not nor would at the said time when the said draft

giving due notice can be proved, it is expedient to add a count stating an excuse for the not giving notice, such as the want of effects, &c. in the hands of the maker; see the form, post, 642, 3. Inland Bills.

¹ Ante, 628, n. 8.—Bayl. 190.

² Ante, 628, n. 8.

³ As to the date, see ante, 627, n. 2.

or order was so shewn and presented to them for payment thereof as aforesaid, or at any time afterwards, pay the said sum of money therein specified, or any part thereof, but then and there wholly neglected and refused so to do, whereof the said C. D. afterwards, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, had notice¹. By means whereof he the said C. D. then and there became liable to pay to the said A. B. the said sum of money in the said draft or order specified, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested². And being so liable, he the said C. D. in consideration thereof afterwards, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, undertook, and then and there faithfully promised the said A. B. to pay him the said sum of money in the said draft or order specified, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested³.



For that whereas⁴ the said C. D. heretofore, to wit, on, &c. at, &c. according to the usage and practice of merchants, made his certain draft or order in writing for the payment of money, commonly called a check, bearing date the same day and year aforesaid, and then and there directed the said draft or order to certain persons, by the names, style, and firm of Messrs. &c.; and thereby then and there requested the said Messrs. &c. to pay to one E. F. or bearer, £50, and then and there delivered the said draft or order, to the said E. F. [and the said E. F. to whom, or to the bearer of the said draft or order, the payment of the said sum of money therein specified, was thereby directed to be made after the making of the said draft or order, and before the payment of the said sum of money therein specified, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, duly transferred, assigned, and delivered the said draft or order, to the said A. B. who thereby then and there became and was, and from thence hitherto hath been and still is the lawful bearer thereof, and entitled to the payment of the said sum of money therein specified.] And the said A. B. avers, that after the making of the said, &c. (*as in the preceding form from the asterisk to the end*).

9. By the bearer
against the
drawer.

¹ As to the necessity for this averment and the expediency in some cases of averring an excuse for the neglect to give notice, ante, 663, 4, note 7.

² Ante, 628, n. 8.

³ Ante, 628, n. 8.

⁴ The notes to the preceding precedent are applicable to this.

APPENDIX.

and date not paid,) to pay to the said A. B. (by the name and received, and then and there delivered the said bill of exchange to the said A. B. ; which said bill of exchange, he the said E. F. afterwards, to wit, on, &c. aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, upon sight thereof, accepted according to the said usage and custom of merchants.

And the said A. B. in fact saith, that afterwards *when the said bill became due and payable according to the tenor and effect thereof*, to wit, on, &c.¹ at, &c. aforesaid, that is to say, at, &c. aforesaid, the said bill of exchange so accepted as aforesaid, was duly presented and shewn to the said E. F. for payment thereof, according to the said usage and custom of merchants, and the said E. F. was then and there requested to pay the said sum of money therein specified, according to the tenor and effect of the said bill of exchange, and of his said acceptance thereof. But that the said E. F. did not, nor would at the said time when the said bill of exchange was so presented and shewn to him for payment thereof as aforesaid, or at any time afterwards, pay the said sum of money therein specified, or any part thereof, but then and there wholly neglected and refused so to do, *nor did he pay the said second or third of exchange in the said bill of exchange mentioned, or either of them, but therein wholly failed and made default*² ; and thereupon afterwards, to wit, on, &c. last aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, the said bill of exchange was duly protested for non-payment thereof, according to the said usage and custom of merchants, of all which said several premises the said C. D. afterwards, to wit, on, &c. last aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, had notice. By means whereof, &c. (*the liability and promise to pay are stated as in the case of an inland bill, ante, 642.*)

22. Payee against drawer, where the bill has been protested as well for non-acceptance as for non-payment.

Sometimes when a bill protested for non-acceptance has also been protested for non-payment, both the presentments and protests are stated, but this, as it has been observed, is unnecessary, as the liability of the drawer and indorser is complete on the protest for non-acceptance. (See 3 East. 481.) When they are stated, the declaration sets forth the presentment for acceptance, the refusal to accept, the protest for non-acceptance, and the notice to the defendant, as ante, 646, 7, and it then proceeds to state the presentment for payment, the refusal, the protest, and the notice to

¹ The day the bill became due, allowing the proper days of grace, as ante, 338, 9; see ante, 633. n. 2. and 2 Smith's Rep. 224.

² This averment is unnecessary, the preceding allegation, that the money mentioned in the bill was not paid, being a sufficient negative of payment, Carth. 509.—Lord Raym. 810.—Salk. 130.—Stra. 214. Ante, 647. Bayl. 188, 9.

the defendant, as ante, 647, 8, and then concludes with stating the defendant's liability and promise to pay on *request*. APPENDIX.

In a declaration at the suit of the indorsee against the drawer or indorser, the indorsement is inserted immediately preceding the averment of the presentment for acceptance or payment, in the same form as in the case of an inland bill, ante, 638. 640, and the indorsement may be stated in the short form, ante, 638. 23. Indorsee against drawer or indorser.

SECT. VI.

DEBT ON PROMISSORY NOTES.

FOR that whereas the said C. D. on, &c. at, &c. made his certain promissory note in writing, bearing date the day and year aforesaid, and then and there delivered the said note to the said A. B., by which said note, he the said C. D. then and there promised to pay, two months after the date thereof, to the said A. B. or order, the sum of £50 for value received. 24. Payee of note against maker¹.

By means whereof and by force of the statute in such case made and provided, the said C. D. then and there became liable to pay to the said A. B. the said sum of money in the said note specified, according to the tenor and effect of the note; and although the said sum of money in the said note specified, hath, according to the tenor and effect of the said note, been long since due and payable, yet the said C. D. (although often requested so to do,) hath not as yet paid the said sum of money, or any part thereof, but hath hitherto wholly neglected and refused so to do, whereby an action hath accrued to the said A. B. to demand and have of and from the said C. D. the said sum of money in the said note specified, parcel of the said sum above demanded.

N. B. Add the proper common counts in debt in the consideration of the note, and the account stated, and the usual conclusion in debt.

FOR that whereas the said C. D. on, &c. at, &c. according to the usage and custom of merchants from time immemorial used 25. By the payee of a bill against the drawer, on default of payment by the acceptor².

¹ When debt is sustainable on a note, see ante, 546 to 548.—See the forms, Morgan's Precedents, 548.—1 Mod. Ed. 312.—See the form, 2 Bos. & Pul. 78. debt lies against indorser when he is also drawer and payee, Stratton v. Hill, 3 Price, 253.

² When debt on bills is sustainable, see ante, 545. 548. and supra, note 1.

APPENDIX. and approved of within this kingdom, made his certain bill of exchange in writing, bearing date the day and year aforesaid, and then and there directed the said bill of exchange to one E. F. (by the name and addition of Mr. E. F., &c.) by which said bill of exchange, he the said C. D. then and there requested the said E. F. two months after the date thereof, to pay to the said A. B. or order, the sum of £50 value received, and then and there delivered the said bill of exchange to the said A. B., which said bill of exchange, the said E. F. afterwards, to wit, on the day and year aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, upon sight thereof accepted, according to the said usage and custom of merchants.

And the said A. B. avers, that afterwards, *when the said bill of exchange became due and payable, according to the tenor and effect thereof*, to wit, on, &c.¹ at, &c. aforesaid, the said bill of exchange so accepted as aforesaid, was duly presented and shewn to the said E. F. for payment thereof, according to the said usage and custom of merchants, and the said E. F. was then and there requested to pay the said sum of money in the said bill of exchange specified, according to the tenor and effect thereof, and of his said acceptance thereof, but the said E. F. did not, nor would, when the said bill of exchange was so presented and shewn to him for payment thereof, as aforesaid, or at any time afterwards, ay the said sum of money therein specified, or any part thereof, but then and there wholly neglected and refused so to do, of all which said premises, the said C. D. afterwards, to wit, on the day and year aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, had notice.

By means whereof, and according to the said usage and custom of merchants, he the said C. D. then and there became liable to pay the said A. B. the said sum of money in the said bill of exchange specified, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested, and being so liable, he the said C. D. in consideration thereof, afterwards, to wit, on the day and year last aforesaid, at, &c. aforesaid, agreed to pay to the said A. B. the said sum of money in the said bill of exchange specified, when he the said C. D. should be thereunto afterwards requested; whereby and by reason of the said sum of money in the said bill of exchange specified, being and remaining wholly unpaid, an action hath accrued to the said A. B. to demand and have, of and from the said C. D. the said sum of money in the said bill of exchange specified, parcel of the said sum above demanded.

¹ The day the bill became due.

In the King's Bench.

Between { A. B. Plaintiff,
and
{ C. D. Defendant.

APPENDIX.

Notice to plaintiff
to prove consid-
eration given by
him for bill¹.

I hereby give you notice, that on the trial of this cause the above named defendant will insist and give in evidence, that the supposed bill of exchange (or "promissory note,") mentioned in the declaration in this cause, if any such there be, was obtained from the said defendant, (or "from G. H.") without legal or sufficient consideration, and by undue means, and that the said defendant is not liable to pay the same; and I do hereby further give you notice, and require you on the said trial to prove the consideration given by the said plaintiff, and every other party for the said bill of exchange, and when such consideration was given and paid, and in what manner, and the person and persons by and from whom the same bill of exchange was obtained by the said plaintiff or any other person, and the time when the said plaintiff and any other person became the holder thereof; and I do hereby further give you notice, and require you on the said trial to produce and give in evidence all letters and copies of letters, and books of account, and vouchers, in any way relating to the said bill of exchange, and in particular a certain letter bearing date, &c. (*here specify any particular document material to be produced,*)

Dated, &c.

Yours, &c. L. M.

Attorney for the said defendant.

To Mr. N. O. the above named plaintiff, and
to Mr. —, his attorney or agent.

SECT. VII.

JUDGMENTS IN ASSUMPSIT ON A BILL, &c.

*As yet of Trinity Term, in the 58th year of the reign of King
George the Third, witness Edward Lord Ellenborough.*

Middlesex to wit.—A. B. puts in his place —, his attorney,
against C. D. in a plea of trespass on the case upon promises.

Middlesex to wit.—The said C. D. puts in his place —, his
attorney, at the suit of the said A. B. in the plea aforesaid.

Middlesex to wit.—Be it remembered, that, &c. [here copy the
demurrer book, containing declaration on a bill of exchange and
money counts, plea judgment recovered, replication *nul tiel* re-
cord, demurrer thereto, joinder, and award of *curia advisari vult.*]

At which day, before our said Lord the King, at Westminster,
came as well the said A. B. by his attorney aforesaid, as the said

Judgment for
plaintiff, on de-
murrer to a repli-
cation of *nul tiel*
record, to a plea
of judgment re-
covered, to a de-
claration on bill
of exchange, and
the money counts;
with a *remittitur*
damna to the
money counts,
and judgment for
plaintiff on the
first count for the
principal and in-
terest on the bill,
on a reference to
the master to
compute princi-
pal and interest.

¹ As to this notice, see ante, 511.

APPENDIX. C. D. by his attorney aforesaid; and whereupon all and singular the premises being seen, and by the court of our said Lord the King now here fully understood, and mature deliberation being thereupon had, it appears to the said court here, that the said replication of the said A. B. and the matters therein contained, are sufficient in law for the said A. B. to have and maintain his aforesaid action thereof against the said C. D. Wherefore the said A. B. ought to recover against the said C. D. his damages, by reason of the premises. * And hereupon the said A. B. freely here in court, remits to the said C. D. all damages sustained by reason of the not performing of the said several promises and undertakings in the last *four*¹ counts of the said declaration mentioned: therefore let the said C. D. be thereof acquitted. And because it is suggested and proved, and manifestly appears to the said court here, that the said A. B. hath sustained damages by reason of the not performing of the said promise and undertaking in the said first count of the said declaration mentioned, to £50, besides the costs and charges of the said suit; Therefore it is considered that the said A. B. do recover against the said C. D. the said sum of £50 for his damages last aforesaid; and also £20 for his said costs and charges by the said court here adjudged to the said A. B. with his assent, which said damages, costs and charges, in the whole amount to £70, and the said C. D. in mercy, &c.

Judgment signed
the 17th day of
Sept. 1818.

Mercy.

The like on a
judgment by *nil
dicit*.

N. B. Insert the memoranda of the warrants of attorney as in the first precedent, ante, 651, and then proceed as follows:

—— To wit, be it remembered, that on ——— next after ——— in this same term, before our Lord the King, at Westminster, comes A. B. by E. F. his attorney, and brings into the court of our said Lord the King, before the King himself now here, his certain bill against C. D. being in the custody of the Marshal of the Marshalsea of our said Lord the King, before the King himself, of a plea of trespass on the case upon promises, and there are pledges for the prosecution thereof, to wit, John Doe and Richard Doe, which said bill follows in these words, that is to say, — to wit, A. B. complains of C. D. being in the custody, &c. (here copy the declaration to the end, omitting the pledges, and proceed in a new line as follows:)

And the said C. D. in his proper person, (or by G. H. his attorney,) comes and defends the wrong and injury, when, &c. and says nothing in bar or preclusion of the said action of the said

¹ More or less, according to the number of the common counts.

A. B. whereby the said A. B. remains therein undefended against the said C. D., wherefore the said A. B. ought to recover against the said C. D. his damages by reason of the premises, &c. (proceed as in the first precedent, from the asterisk to the end, and if the final judgment be of a term subsequent to the interlocutory judgment, insert the continuances as in the next precedent.)

N. B. The same as the two precedents to the end of the interlocutory judgment at the asterisk, and then proceed as follows:

But because it is unknown to the court of our said Lord the King now here, what damages the said A. B. hath sustained by means of the premises, the sheriff is commanded, that by the oath of twelve good and lawful men of his bailiwick, he diligently inquire what damages the said A. B. hath sustained, as well by means of the premises, as for his costs and charges by him about his suit in this behalf expended, and that he send the inquisition which he shall thereupon take to our said Lord the King, at Westminster on _____ next after _____ under his seal, and the seals of those by whose oath he shall take that inquisition, together with the writ of our said Lord the King, to him thereupon directed, and the same day is given to the said A. B. at the same place.

¹ At which day before our said Lord the King at Westminster aforesaid, comes the said A. B. by his attorney aforesaid: And the sheriff hath not sent the writ of our said Lord the King to him in that behalf directed, nor hath he done any thing thereupon. * Therefore, as before the sheriff is commanded, that by the oath of twelve good and lawful men, &c. (same as above to the asterisk, inserting a return day in the subsequent term, and then proceed as follows:) And hereupon the said A. B. freely in court, remits to the said C. D. all damages, &c. (as above from the asterisk, 652.)

The like when final judgment is signed of a different term from the interlocutory judgment, with a continuance by award of writ of inquiry and return of *vicecomes non misit breve*.

SECT. VIII.

NOTARY'S FEES OF OFFICE, AS SETTLED THE FIRST OF JULY, 1797.

AT a meeting of several Notaries of the city of London, held at the George and Vulture Tavern, in London aforesaid, on the

¹ The omission of the following supposed default is not material, 4 Taunt. 148.

APPENDIX. 1st July, A. D. 1797, the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to, and since approved and confirmed by the Governor and Company of the Bank of England.

First—That from and after the fifth day of the present month of July, the *noting* for all bills drawn upon, or addressed at the house of any person or persons residing within the ancient walls of the said city of London, shall be charged one shilling and sixpence; and without the said walls, and not exceeding the limits hereunder specified, the sum of two shillings and sixpence¹.

Second—For all bills drawn upon, or addressed at the house of any person or persons residing beyond Old or New Bond-street, Wimpole-street, New Cavendish-street, Upper Mary-bone-street, Howland-street, Lower Gower-street, lower end of Gray's-inn-lane, (and not off the pavement,) Clerkenwell church, Old-street, Shoreditch church, Brick-lane, St. George's in the East, Execution-dock, Wapping, Dock-head, upper end of Bermondsey-street (as far as the church), end of Blackman-street, end of Great Surrey-street, Blackfriars-road (as far as the Circus,) Cuper's-Bridge, Bridge-street, Westminster, Arlington-street, Piccadilly, and the like distances, three shillings and sixpence: and off the pavement one shilling and sixpence per mile additional.

Third—For *protesting* a bill drawn upon, or addressed at the house of any person or persons residing within the ancient walls of the said city, (including the stamp-duty of four shillings, and exclusive of the charge of noting), the sum of six shillings and sixpence: and without the ancient walls of the said city, including the like stamp-duty, and exclusive of the said charge of noting, the sum of eight shillings, agreeably to the second article.

Fourth—That *all acts of honour* within the ancient walls of the said city of London, shall be charged the sum of one shilling and sixpence upon each bill; and for all acts of honour without the ancient walls of the said city, to be regulated agreeably to the charge of noting bills out of the city; and the like charge for any additional demand that may be made upon the said bill, or when the same is mentioned and inserted in the answer in the protest.

Fifth—For every *post demand and act thereof*, within the ancient walls of the said city, the sum of two shillings and sixpence; and without the walls of the said city, the sum of three shillings and sixpence (provided the same be only registered in the notary's books), and so in proportion, according to the distance, to be regulated agreeably to the charge of noting bills.

¹ But see ante, 398, and 4 T. R. 179.

Sixth—For every *copy of bill paid in part, and a receipt at foot of such copy*, shall be charged two shillings, and so in proportion for every additional bill so copied, (exclusive of the receipt stamp).

Seventh—For every *duplicate protest of one bill* (including four shillings for the duty), shall be charged the sum of seven shillings and sixpence; and so in like proportion of three shillings and sixpence (exclusive of the duty), for every additional bill.

Eighth—For every folio of *ninety words, translated from the French, Dutch, or Flemish, into English*, shall be charged one shilling and sixpence, and from English into French, Dutch, or Flemish, two shillings for each such folio; and from Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Danish, and Swedish, one shilling and nine pence per folio of ninety words; and from Latin, two shillings and sixpence per folio; and for *attesting the same to be a true translation, if necessary, seven shillings and sixpence, exclusive of fees and stamps.*

Ninth—That all *attestations to letters of attorney, affidavits, &c.* at the request of any gentlemen in the law, shall be charged seven shillings and sixpence, exclusive of fees, stamps, and attendance.

Tenth—For every *city seal* shall be charged one guinea for one deponent, exclusive of attendance and exemplification; and if more than one deponent, ten shillings and sixpence for each additional affidavit.

Eleventh—For all *notarial copies* shall be charged sixpence per folio of seventy-two words, exclusive of attestation, stamps, &c.

SECT. IX.

DEPOSITIONS IN BANKRUPTCY.

A. B. of, &c. grocer, maketh oath and saith, that C. D. of the city of London, merchant, is indebted to this deponent¹ in the sum of £100 and upwards², and that the said C. D. is become

1. Affidavit of one petitioning creditor.

¹ Insert (if in partnership) "and to C. D. E. F. &c. this deponent's partners in trade."

² Sometimes the debt is stated, as "for goods sold and delivered by, &c. to, &c." or "upon a bill of exchange," or "for money lent, &c." according to the nature of the debt: but this is not necessary, 1 Atk. 135.—1 Mont. 390.

APPENDIX. bankrupt within the true intent and meaning of some or one of the statutes made and now in force concerning bankrupts, as this deponent is informed and believes. A. B.

Sworn at the public office in Southampton Buildings,
the day of before me

2. Affidavit of several¹ petitioning creditors.

A. B. of, &c. C. D. of, &c. E. F. of, &c. G. H. of, &c. severally make oath and say, and first this deponent A. B. for himself saith, that I. K. of, &c. is justly indebted unto him, this deponent, in the sum of £30 for, &c. And this deponent C. D. for himself saith, that, &c. [as before]. And all these deponents say, that they verily believe that the said I. K. is become bankrupt within the true intent and meaning of some or one of the statutes made and now in force concerning bankrupts.

All sworn, &c.

A. B. E. F.
C. D. G. H.

3. The affirmation of a Quaker.

A. B. of, &c. being one of the people called Quakers, being examined upon his solemn affirmation, saith, &c. [as in affidavit, only that instead of the word "deponent," the word "affirmant" is made use of.]

4. Affidavit to obtain a country commission.

(Same as the first form, ante, 655. to the end, and then proceed as follows.) And this deponent further saith, That the commission, when obtained, will be executed at ——— (the country place), or within ten miles of the same, and not within forty miles of London.

A. B.

Sworn at ———, in the
county of ———, this
——— day of ———
in the 58th year of the
reign of George the
Third, King of the
United Kingdom, &c.
before me, T. M. Mas-
ter Extraordinary in
Chancery.

Commissioners names, *(here state them.)*

¹ The debt of two petitioning creditors must be £150, or three or more £200. 5 Geo. 2. c. 30. sect. 23.

At the Rolls Coffee-house, in Chancery-lane, the — day of —, one thousand eight hundred and eleven. APPENDIX.

A. B. of the parish of —, being sworn and examined, the day and year, and at the place above written, upon his oath saith, that C. D., the person against whom this commission of bankrupt is awarded and issued forth, was, at and before the date and suing forth of the said commission, and still is, justly and truly indebted unto him this deponent in the sum of — for (*the consideration must be stated, see the forms of bills of exchange, infra, 657 to 660. proof of bills in different cases*), and that the said sum became due at the time following, that is to say (*here the time or times when the debt became due must appear.*)

5. Proof of petitioning creditor's debt.

Signed¹.

The time when the debt became due must be stated, or a bill of particulars with dates must be annexed and referred to in the depositions.

PROOF OF DEBTS.

At Guildhall, London, 2d Dec. 1817.

G. H. A. B. of, &c. being sworn and examined, the day and year, and at the place abovesaid, before, &c. upon his oath saith, that C. D. of, &c. the person against whom the commission of bankrupt, now in prosecution, is awarded and issued, was, before the date and suing forth of the said commission, and still is, justly and truly indebted unto him this deponent, in the sum of £100, for money lent and advanced by this deponent to the said C. D. for which said sum of £100, or any part thereof, this deponent hath not received any security or satisfaction whatsoever, save and except a promissory note, dated the — day of —, A. D. —, under the hand of the said C. D., whereby he promised to pay to this deponent, on demand, the said sum of £100.

6. Depositions for money lent, secured by bankrupt's promissory note.

Exception of a promissory note.

O. P. A. B. of, &c. being sworn, &c. that the said C. D. the person against whom, &c. was, at and before the date and suing forth of the said commission, and still is, justly and truly indebted unto this deponent in the sum of — upon

7. On a promissory note made by bankrupt, and indorsed by a third person to the creditor.

¹ All depositions must be signed by the witnesses.

APPENDIX.

a promissory note under his hand, dated the —, given by the said bankrupt to one E. F. for —, payable to him or his order — after date: which note the said E. F. indorsed to I. K. who indorsed the same to this deponent for goods sold and delivered by this deponent to the said I. K. and money paid by him on account of the said note to that amount, and for which said sum of —, or any part thereof, this deponent hath not, nor hath any person to his use, received any security or satisfaction whatsoever, save G. H. and except the said note.

A. B.

8. On notes of hand:—One made by the bankrupt and delivered to the creditor: the others indorsed to the creditor.

S. D. A. B. of, &c. being sworn, &c. [as usual] and still is justly and truly indebted to this deponent, in the sum of £890 and upwards, for money lent by this deponent to the said C. D., before he became bankrupt, for which said sum of £890, or any part thereof, this deponent hath not received any satisfaction or security whatsoever, save the seven following promissory notes; one dated the 22d of May, 1809, under the hand of the said C. D. whereby he promises to pay to this deponent, or order, one year after date, £200 with interest; the other six promissory notes are under the hand of one A. F. and made payable to the said C. D., and by the said C. D. indorsed to this deponent, and are for the several and respective sums following: one dated 19 September, 1809, for £150, payable six months after date; another dated 18 October, 1809, for £90, payable six months after date; another 8 November, 1809, for £100, payable four months after date; another dated 4 December, 1809, for £115, payable five months after date; and the other of the said notes dated 26 December, W. M. 1810, for £125, payable six months after date.

A. B.

9. On a bill of exchange drawn and delivered by the bankrupt to the creditor.

J. B. A. B. of, &c. being sworn, &c. saith, that C. D. the person, &c. was, at and before the date and issuing forth of the said commission, and still is, justly and truly indebted unto this deponent in the sum of, &c. and upwards, for money lent by this deponent to the said C. D. before he became bankrupt, for which said sum, or any part thereof, he this deponent hath not, nor hath any person to his use, received any security or satisfaction whatsoever, save and except a certain bill of exchange, dated

the — and drawn by the said C. D. upon and accepted **APPENDIX.**
 G. H. by I. K. and by the said C. D. indorsed and delivered to —
 this deponent. A. B.

J. B. A. B. of — in the county of —, mercer, 10. On a bill of
 being sworn, &c. that R. E. and F. E. the persons against exchange indors-
 whom the commission of bankrupt is awarded and issued, ed to the creditor
 were, at and before the date and issuing forth of the said by a third person.
 commission, and still are, justly and truly indebted to this
 deponent in the sum of —, upon two bills of ex-
 change, both drawn by the said bankrupts, on H. U. and
 Co. merchants, of —, and accepted by them, and
 both payable — after date, to M. J. T. and Co. or
 R. F. order; one of them for the sum of —, and the other
 for the sum of —, for value in account, both or
 which said bills of exchange are dated the — day of
 —, and respectively indorsed by the said M. J. T.
 and Co. and by them delivered to the deponent, for goods
 sold and delivered by this deponent to the said M. J. T:
 and Co. and money paid to them on account of the said
 bills of exchange, to the full amount of the said bills of
 exchange, deducting the legal discount, and for which said
 sum, or any part thereof, this deponent hath not, nor hath
 any person to his use, received any security or satisfaction
 G. H. whatsoever, except the said bills of exchange.

A. B.

J. B. A. B. of —, merchant, being sworn, &c. That 11. For a debt
 P. H. the person against whom this commission of bank- secured by bills
 ruptcy is awarded and issued forth, as being one of the set forth in a
 partners, &c. was, at and before the date and issuing forth schedule.
 of the said commission, and still is, justly and truly in-
 R. F. debted unto this deponent in the sum of —, for pre-
 miums on insurances, for which said sum of — or
 any part thereof, he this deponent hath not received any
 security or satisfaction whatsoever, save and except the
 G. H. under-mentioned bills of exchange and promissory notes.

A. B.

Note or bill.	Date.	Drawer.	Acceptor.	Sum. £ s. d.	Payable to.	At what date drawn.	Indor- sers.

APPENDIX.

12. Form of a claim. (The claimant is not sworn.)

A. B. of, &c. ——— claims a debt of ———, due to ———, from ———, for ———, upon, &c. (*here state the promissory note, bill of exchange, &c.*)

Memorandum, That on the day and year, and at the place above-mentioned, A. B. of, &c. claimed a debt under the commission of bankrupt awarded and issued against C. D. of, &c. of £100 to be due from the bankrupt to (the person for whom the claim is made), by note of hand.

SECT. X.

Statute 9 & 10 W. 3. c. 17. intituled, "An Act for the better Payment of Inland Bills of Exchange."

Bills of exchange drawn in England, &c. of £5 or upwards, payable at a certain number of days, &c.

After acceptance, and three days after it is due, may be protested.

" WHEREAS great damages and other inconveniences do frequently happen in the course of trade and commerce, by reason of delays of payment and other neglects on inland bills of exchange in this kingdom;" be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the four and twentieth day of June next, which shall be in the year one thousand six hundred and ninety-eight, all and every bill or bills of exchange drawn in, or dated at and from, any trading city or town, or any other place in the kingdom of England, dominion of Wales, or town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, of the sum of five pounds sterling or upwards, upon any person or persons of or in London, or any other trading city, town, or any other place (in which said bill or bills of exchange shall be acknowledged and expressed *the said value to be received*), and is and shall be drawn payable at a certain number of *days, weeks, or months* after *date* thereof, and from and after presentation and acceptance of the said bill or bills of exchange, (which acceptance shall be by the underwriting the same under the party's hand so accepting) and *after* the expiration of three days after the said bill or bills shall become due, the party to whom the said bill or bills are made payable, his servant, agent or assigns, may and shall

cause the said bill or bills to be *protested*¹ by a notary public, and in default of such notary public, by any other substantial person of the city, town, or place, in the presence of two or more credible witnesses, refusal or neglect being first made of due payment of the same; which protest shall be made and written under a fair written copy of the said bill of exchange, in the words or form following:

APPENDIX.

Further provisions relating hereto, 3 & 4 Anne, c. 9. sect. 4. which is made perpetual by 7 Ann. c. 25. 1 Salk. 131. Mod. cases in the law, 80. 373. 6 Mod. 80.

‘ KNOW all men, that I *A. B.* on the _____ day of _____ at the usual place of abode of the said _____ have demanded payment of the bill, of the which the above is the copy, which the said _____ did not pay, wherefore I the said _____ do hereby protest the said bill. Dated this _____ day of _____

The form of the protest.

II. Which protest so made as aforesaid, shall, within fourteen days after making thereof, be sent, or otherwise due notice shall be given thereof, to the party from whom the said bill or bills were received, who is, upon producing such protest, to repay the said bill or bills, together with all interest and charges from the day such bill or bills were protested; for which protest shall be paid a sum not exceeding the sum of *sixpence*²; and in default or neglect of such protest made and sent, or due notice given within the days before limited, the person so failing or neglecting thereof, is and shall be liable to all costs, damages, and interest, which do and shall accrue thereby.

Protest or notice thereof to be given in fourteen days after made, &c.

III. Provided nevertheless, that in case any such inland bill or bills of exchange shall happen to be lost³ or miscarried *within the time before limited for the payment of the same*, then the drawer of the said bill or bills is and shall be obliged to give another bill or bills of the same tenor with those first given, the person or persons to whom they are and shall be so delivered, giving security, if demanded, to the said drawer, to indemnify him against all persons whatsoever, in case the said bill or bills of exchange so alleged to be lost or miscarried, shall be found again.

Bill lost or miscarried, drawer to give another.

¹ As to protest and constructions on this statute, ante, 396, &c.

² Ante, 398.—4 T. R. 170.

³ As to lost bills and constructions on this clause, ante, 196, &c.

APPENDIX. *Statute. 3 & 4 Anne, Chap. 9. intituled, "An Act
 "for giving like Remedy upon Promissory Notes,
 "as is now used upon Bills of Exchange, and
 "for the better Payment of Inland Bills of
 "Exchange."—Made perpetual by 7 Anne, c. 25.
 "s. 3.")*

See 1 Burr. 227.
 325. This act
 (being for the be-
 nefit of com-
 merce) is liberally
 construed, 3 Wils.
 2.*

Promissory note
 may be assigned
 or indorsed, and
 action maintained
 thereon, as on in-
 land bills of ex-
 change.

‘ WHEREAS it hath been held, That notes in writing, signed
 ‘ by the party who makes the same, whereby such party promises
 ‘ to pay unto any other person, or his order, any sum of money
 ‘ therein mentioned, are not assignable or indorsable over, within
 ‘ the custom of merchants, to any other person; and that such
 ‘ person to whom the sum of money mentioned in such note is
 ‘ payable, cannot maintain an action by the custom of merchants,
 ‘ against the person who first made and signed the same; and that
 ‘ any person to whom such note should be assigned, indorsed, or
 ‘ made payable, could not, within the said custom of merchants,
 ‘ maintain any action upon such note against the person who first
 ‘ drew and signed the same.’ Therefore, to the intent to en-
 courage trade and commerce, which will be much advanced, if
 such notes shall have the same effect as inland bills of exchange,
 and shall be negotiated in like manner: Be it enacted by the
 Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and con-
 sent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this
 present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same,
 That all notes in writing, that after the first day of May, in the
 year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and five, shall be
 made and signed by any person or persons, body politic or cor-
 porate, or by the servant or agent of any corporation, banker,
 goldsmith, merchant, or trader, who is usually intrusted by him,
 her or them, to sign such promissory notes for him, her, or them,
 whereby such person or person, body politic and corporate, his,
 her, or their servant or agent as aforesaid, doth or shall promise to
 pay to any other person or persons, body politic and corporate, his,
 her, or their order, or unto bearer, any sum of money mentioned
 in such note, shall be taken and construed to be, by virtue thereof,
 due and payable to any such person or persons, body politic and

* See constructions on this statute as to promissory notes, ante,
 414 to 423.

corporate, to whom the same is made payable; and also every such note payable to any person or persons, body politic and corporate, his, her, or their order, shall be assignable or indorsable over, in the same manner as inland bills of exchange are or may be, according to the custom of merchants; and that the person or persons, body politic and corporate, to whom such sum of money is or shall be by such note made payable, shall and may maintain an action for the same, in such manner as he, she, or they, might do, upon any inland bill of exchange, made or drawn according to the custom of merchants, against the person or persons, body politic and corporate, who, or whose servant or agent as aforesaid, signed the same: and that any person or persons, body politic and corporate, to whom such note that is payable to any person or persons, body politic and corporate, his, her, or their order, is indorsed or assigned, or the money therein mentioned, ordered to be paid by indorsement thereon, shall and may maintain his, her, or their action for such sum of money, either against the person or persons, body politic and corporate, who, or whose servant or agent as aforesaid, signed such note, or against any of the persons that indorsed the same, in like manner as in cases of inland bills of exchange; and in every such action the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall recover his, her, or their damages and costs of suit; and if such plaintiff or plaintiffs shall be nonsuited, or a verdict be given against him, her, or them, the defendant or defendants shall recover his, her, or their costs against the plaintiff or plaintiffs; and every such plaintiff or plaintiffs, defendant or defendants, respectively recovering, may sue out execution for such damages and costs by *capias*, *fieri facias*, or *elegit*.

Plaintiff or defendant may recover costs.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all and every such actions shall be commenced, sued and brought within such time as is appointed for commencing or suing actions upon the case, by the statute made in the one and twentieth year of the reign of King James the first, intituled, '*An Act for Limitation of Actions, and for avoiding of Suits in Law.*'

How actions shall be brought, 21 Jac. 1. c. 16.

III. Provided, That no body politic or corporate shall have power, by virtue of this act, to issue or give out any notes, by themselves or their servants, other than such as they might have issued, if this act had never been made.

Proviso against giving out notes.

IV. And whereas by an act of parliament made in the ninth year of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Third, intituled, '*An Act for the better Payment of Inland Bills of Exchange,*' it is among other things enacted, that from and after presenta-

9 & 10 W. 3. c. 17.

APPENDIX.

tion and acceptance of the said bill or bills of exchange (which acceptance shall be by the underwriting the same under the party's hand so accepting) and after the expiration of three days after the said bill or bills shall become due, the party to whom the said bill or bills are made payable, his servant, agent, or assigns, may and shall cause the same bill or bills to be protested in manner as in the said act is enacted: And whereas by there being no provision made therein for protesting such bills or bills, in case the party on whom the same are or shall be drawn, refuse to accept the same by underwriting the same under his hand, all merchants and others do refuse to underwrite such bill or bills, or make any other than a promissory acceptance, by which means the effect and good intent of the said act in that behalf is wholly evaded, and no bill or bills can be protested before, or for want of such acceptance by under writing the same as aforesaid.' For remedy whereof, be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the first day of May, which shall be in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and five, in case, upon presenting of any such bill or bills of exchange, the party or parties, on whom the same shall be drawn, shall refuse to accept the same, by underwriting the same as aforesaid, the party to whom the said bill or bills are made payable, his servant, agent or assigns, may and shall cause the said bill or bills to be protested for non-acceptance as in case of foreign bills of exchange; any thing in the said act or any other law to the contrary notwithstanding; for which protest there shall be paid two shillings and no more.

Party refusing to underwrite bill of exchange, such bill may be protested for non-acceptance.

No acceptance of inland bills of exchange to be sufficient, unless the same be underwritten, nor drawer thereof liable to costs, &c.

V. Provided always, that from and after the said first day of May, no acceptance of any such inland bill of exchange shall be sufficient to charge any person whatsoever, unless the same be underwritten or indorsed in writing thereupon; and if such bill be not accepted by such underwriting, or indorsement in writing, no drawer of any such inland bill shall be liable to pay any costs, damages, or interest thereupon, unless such protest may be made for non-acceptance thereof; and within fourteen days after such protest, the same be sent or otherwise notice thereof be given to the party from whom such bill was received, or left in writing at the place of his or her usual abode; and if such bill be accepted, and not paid before the expiration of three days after the said bill shall become due and payable, then no drawer of such bill shall be compellable to pay any costs, damages or interest thereupon,

unless a protest be made and sent, or notice thereof be given, in manner and form above-mentioned : Nevertheless, every drawer of such bill shall be liable to make payment of costs, damages, and interest upon such inland bill, if any one protest be made of non-acceptance, or non-payment thereof, and notice thereof be sent, given, or left as aforesaid. **APPENDIX.**

VI. Provided, that no such protest shall be necessary, either for non-acceptance or non-payment of any inland bill of exchange, unless the value be acknowledged and expressed in such bill to be received, and unless such bill be drawn for the payment of twenty pounds sterling or upwards, and that the protest hereby required for non-acceptance, shall be made by such persons as are appointed by the said recited act to protest inland bills of exchange for non-payment thereof. **No protest necessary unless the bill be drawn for £20 or upwards.**

VII. And be it further enacted, That from and after the said first day of May, if any persons doth accept any such bill of exchange, for and in satisfaction of any former debt, or sum of money formerly due unto him, the same shall be accounted and esteemed a full and complete payment of such debt, if such person accepting of any such bill for his debt, doth not take his due course to obtain payment thereof, by endeavouring to get the same accepted and paid, and make his protest as aforesaid, either for non-acceptance, or non-payment thereof. **By whom protest shall be made.**
Acceptance of bill esteemed a full payment of debt.

VIII. Provided, that nothing herein contained shall extend to discharge any remedy, that any person may have against the drawer, acceptor, or indorser of such bill. **Proviso.**

IX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this act shall continue and be in force for the space of three years, from the first day of May, and from thence to the end of the next session of parliament, and no longer. **Act to continue three years.**

[Made perpetual by 7 Anne, c. 25. s. 3.]

SECT. XI.

STATUTES RELATIVE TO SMALL NOTES AND BILLS
MADE OR NEGOTIATED IN ENGLAND.

48 GEO. 3. C. 88. A. D. 1808.

An Act to restrain the Negotiation of Promissory Notes and Inland Bills of Exchange, under a limited Sum, in England.

15 Geo. 3. c. 51.
repealed.

‘ WHEREAS various notes, bills of exchange, and drafts for
‘ money for very small sums have for some time past been circu-
‘ lated or negotiated in lieu of cash, within that part of Great
‘ Britain called England, to the great prejudice of trade and
‘ public credit, and many of such bills and drafts being payable
‘ under certain terms and restrictions which the poorer sort of
‘ manufacturers, artificers, labourers, and others cannot comply
‘ with, otherwise than by being subject to great extortion and
‘ abuse: And whereas an act, passed in the fifteenth year of the
‘ reign of His present Majesty, intituled, “ An Act to restrain
‘ the Negotiation of Promissory Notes and Inland Bills of Ex-
‘ change, under a limited Sum, within that part of Great Britain
‘ called England, for preventing the circulating such notes and
‘ drafts: And whereas doubts have arisen as to the power of jus-
‘ tices of the peace to hear and determine offences under the said
‘ act; and it is therefore expedient that more effectual provisions
‘ should be made for enforcing the provisions of the said act;’ be
it therefore enacted by the King’s Most Excellent Majesty, by and
with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal,
and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the
authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this
act, the said recited act shall be and the same is hereby re-
pealed.

Promissory notes
for less than 20s.
declared void.

II. And be it further enacted, That all promissory or other
notes, bills of exchange or drafts, or undertakings in writing, being
negotiable or transferrable for the payment of any sum or sums of
money, or any orders, notes or undertakings in writing, being ne-
gotiable or transferable for the delivery of any goods, specifying
their value in money, less than the sum of twenty shillings in the

whole, heretofore made or issued, or which shall hereafter be made or issued, shall, from and after the first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and eight, be and the same are hereby declared to be absolutely void and of no effect; any law, statute, usage or custom, to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

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III. And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall, after the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and eight, by any art, device, or means whatsoever, publish or utter any such notes, bills, drafts, or engagements as aforesaid, for a less sum than twenty shillings, or on which less than the sum of twenty shillings shall be due, and which shall be in anywise negotiable or transferrable, or shall negotiate or transfer the same, every such person shall forfeit and pay, for every such offence, any sum not exceeding twenty pounds, nor less than five pounds, at the discretion of the justice of the peace who shall hear and determine such offence.

Penalty on persons uttering such notes, 20s. to £5.

IV. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for any justice or justices of the peace, acting for the county, riding, city, or place within which any offence against this act shall be committed, to hear and determine the same in a summary way, at any time within twenty days after such offence shall have been committed; and such justice or justices, upon any information exhibited or complaint made upon oath in that behalf, shall summon the party accused, and also the witnesses on either side, and shall examine into the matter of fact, and upon due proof made thereof, either by the voluntary confession of the party or by the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, or otherwise, (which oath such justice or justices is or are hereby authorized to administer,) shall convict the offender, and adjudge the penalty for such offence.

Justices may determine on such offences within 20 days.

V. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall be summoned as a witness to give evidence before such justice or justices, either on the part of the prosecutor or the person accused, and shall neglect or refuse to appear at the time or place to be for that purpose appointed without a reasonable excuse for such his neglect or refusal, to be allowed by such justice or justices, then such person shall forfeit for every such offence, the sum of forty shillings, to be levied and paid in such manner and by such means as are directed for recovery of other penalties under this act.

Penalty on witnesses not attending, 40s.

VI. And be it further enacted, That the justice or justices before whom any offender shall be convicted as aforesaid, shall cause

APPENDIX. the said conviction to be made out, in the manner and form following; (that is to say,)

Form of conviction.

‘ Be it remembered, That on the day of
 ‘ in the year of our Lord
 ‘ *A. B.* having appeared before me [or, us] one [or more] of
 ‘ His Majesty’s justices of the peace [as the case may be]
 ‘ for the county, riding, city, or place, [as the case may be]
 ‘ and due proof having been made upon oath by one or more
 ‘ credible witness or witnesses, or by confession of the
 ‘ party [as the case may be] is convicted of
 ‘ [specifying the offence]. Given under my hand and seal,
 ‘ [or, our hands and seals] the day and year aforesaid.’

Returnable to the Quarter Sessions.

Which conviction the said justice or justices shall cause to be returned to the then next general quarter sessions of the peace of the county, riding, city, or place where such conviction was made, to be filed by the clerk of the peace, to remain and be kept among the records of such county, riding, city, or place.

Copies of convictions.

VII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for any clerk of the peace for any county, riding, city, or place, and he is hereby required, upon application made to him by any person or persons for that purpose, to cause a copy or copies of any conviction or convictions filed by him under the directions of this act, to be forthwith delivered to such person or persons upon payment of one shilling for every such copy.

Recovery and application of penalties.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That the pecuniary penalties and forfeitures hereby incurred and made payable upon any conviction against this act, shall be forthwith paid by the person convicted as follows: one moiety of the forfeiture to the informer, and the other moiety to the poor of the parish or place where the offence shall be committed; and in case such person shall refuse or neglect to pay the same, or to give sufficient security to the satisfaction of such justice or justices to prosecute any appeal against such conviction, such justice or justices shall, by warrant under his or their hand and seal, or hands and seals, cause the same to be levied by distress and sale of the offender’s goods and chattels, together with all costs and charges attending such distress and sale, returning the overplus (if any) to the owner; and which said warrant of distress the said justice or justices shall cause to be made out in the manner and form following; (that is to say,)

‘ To the Constable, Headborough, or Tythingman of

Form of the warrant of distress.

‘ Whereas *A. B.* of in the county of
 ‘ is this day convicted before me [or, us]

‘ one [or more] of His Majesty’s justices of the peace [as **APPENDIX.**
 ‘ the case may be] for the county of [or, for
 ‘ the Riding of the county of York,] or for the
 ‘ town, liberty, or district of [as
 ‘ the case may be] upon the oath of
 ‘ or a credible witness or witnesses [or,
 ‘ by confession of the party, as the case may be] for that the
 ‘ said *A. B.* hath [here set forth the offence] contrary to the
 ‘ statute in that case made and provided, by reason whereof
 ‘ the said *A. B.* hath forfeited the sum of
 ‘ to be distributed as herein is mentioned, which he hath
 ‘ refused to pay: These are therefore, in His Majesty’s name,
 ‘ to command you to levy the said sum of
 ‘ by distress of the goods and chattels of him the said *A. B.*
 ‘ and if within the space of five days next after such distress
 ‘ by you taken, the said sum, together with the reasonable
 ‘ charges of taking the same, shall not be paid, then that you
 ‘ do sell the said goods and chattels so by you distrained, and
 ‘ out of the money arising by such sale, that you do pay one
 ‘ half of the said sum of
 ‘ to of who
 ‘ informed me [or, us, as the case shall be] of the said of-
 ‘ fence, and the other half of the said sum of
 ‘ to the overseer of the poor of the parish, township, or
 ‘ place where the offence was committed, to be employed
 ‘ for the benefit of such poor, returning the overplus (if any)
 ‘ upon demand, to the said *A. B.* the reasonable charges of
 ‘ taking, keeping, and selling the said distress being first
 ‘ deducted; and if sufficient distress cannot be found of the
 ‘ goods and chattels of the said *A. B.* whereon to levy the
 ‘ said sum of that then
 ‘ you certify the same to me, [or, us, as the case shall be]
 ‘ together with this warrant. Given under my hand and seal,
 ‘ [or, our hands and seals] the
 ‘ day of in the year of our Lord .’

IX. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for such
 justice or justices to order such offender to be detained in safe
 custody until return may conveniently be had and made to such
 warrant of distress, unless the party so convicted shall give suffi-
 cient security, to the satisfaction of such justice or justices, for
 his appearance before the said justice or justices, on such day as
 shall be appointed by the said justice or justices for the day of
 the return of the said warrant or distress (such day not exceeding

Security for ap-
 pearance of
 party, on return
 of such warrants.

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Offenders may be committed for want of distress.

five days from the taking of such security); which security the said justice or justices is and are hereby empowered to take by way of recognizance or otherwise.

X. And be it further enacted, That if upon such return no sufficient distress can be had, then and in such case the said justice or justices shall and may commit such offender to the common gaol or house of correction of the county, riding, division, or place where the offence shall be committed, for the space of three calendar months, unless the money forfeited shall be sooner paid, or unless or until such offender thinking him or herself aggrieved by such conviction, shall give notice to the informer that he or she intends to appeal to the justices of the peace at the next general quarter sessions of the peace to be holden for the county, riding, or place wherein the offence shall be committed, and shall enter into recognizance before some justice or justices, with two sufficient sureties conditioned to try such appeal, and to abide the order of and pay such costs as shall be awarded by the justices at such quarter sessions (which notice of appeal, being not less than eight days before the trial thereof, such person so aggrieved is hereby empowered to give); and the said justices at such sessions, upon due proof of such notice being given as aforesaid, and of the entering into such recognizance, shall hear and finally determine the causes and matters of such appeal in a summary way, and award such costs to the parties appealing or appealed against as they the said justices shall think proper; and the determination of such quarter session shall be final, binding, and conclusive, to all intents and purposes.

Parishioners may be witnesses.

XI. And be it further enacted, That no person shall be disabled from being a witness in any prosecution for any offence against this act, by reason of his being an inhabitant of the parish wherein such offence was committed.

Convictions not removable by certiorari.

XII. Provided always, That no proceedings to be had, touching the conviction or convictions of any offender or offenders against this act, shall be quashed for want of form, or be removed by writ of certiorari or any other writ or process whatsoever, into any of His Majesty's courts of record at Westminster.

Limitation of actions.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That if any action or suit shall be commenced against any person or persons for any thing done or acted in pursuance of this act, then and in every such case such action or suit shall be commenced or prosecuted within three calendar months after the fact committed, and not afterwards; and the same and every such action or suit shall be brought within the county where the fact was committed, and not

Venue.

elsewhere; and the defendant or defendants in every such action or suit shall and may plead the general issue, and give this act and the special matter in evidence at any trial to be had thereupon, and that the same was done in pursuance and by the authority of this act; and if the same shall appear to have been so done, or if any such action or suit shall be brought after the time limited for bringing the same, or be brought or laid in any other place than as aforementioned, then the jury shall find for the defendant or defendants; or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall become nonsuit, or discontinue his, her, or their action after the defendant or defendants shall have appeared, or if upon demurrer judgment shall be given against the plaintiff or plaintiffs, the defendant or defendants shall and may recover treble costs, and have the like remedy for the recovery thereof as any defendant or defendants hath or have in any other cases by law.

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Treble costs.

By 17 Geo. 3. c. 30. s. 1, made perpetual by 27 Geo. 3. c. 16.—“Whereas the said act (meaning 15 Geo. 3. c. 51.) hath been attended with very salutary effects, and in case the provisions therein contained were extended to a further sum, (but yet without prejudice to the convenience arising to the public from the negotiation of promissory notes and inland bills of exchange for the remittance of money, in discharge of *any balance of account or other debt*,) the good purposes of the said act would be further advanced;” Be it therefore enacted, That all promissory or other notes, bills of exchange, or drafts, or undertakings in writing, being negotiable or transferrable for the payment of *twenty shillings, or any sum of money above that sum, and less than five pounds*, or which twenty shillings, or above that sum, and *less than five pounds*, shall remain undischarged, and which shall be issued, within that part of Great Britain called England, at any time after the first of January, 1778, shall specify the names and places of abode of the persons respectively to whom, or to whose order, the same shall be made payable, and shall bear date before or at the time of drawing or issuing thereof, and not on any day subsequent thereto, and shall be made payable within the space of twenty-one days next after the day of the date thereof; and shall not be transferrable or negotiable after the time thereby limited for payment thereof; and that every indorsement to be made thereon shall be made before the expiration of that time, and bear date at, or not before the time of making thereof; and shall specify the name and place of abode of the person or persons to whom, or to whose order, the money contained in every

Statutes as to bills and notes under £5.

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12. Form of a claim. (The claimant is not sworn.)

A. B. of, &c. ——— claims a debt of ———, due to ———, from ———, for ———, upon, &c. (*here state the promissory note, bill of exchange, &c.*)

Memorandum, That on the day and year, and at the place above-mentioned, A. B. of, &c. claimed a debt under the commission of bankrupt awarded and issued against C. D. of, &c. of £100 to be due from the bankrupt to (the person for whom the claim is made), by note of hand.

 SECT. X.

Statute 9 & 10 W. 3. c. 17. intituled, "An Act for the better Payment of Inland Bills of Exchange."

Bills of exchange drawn in England, &c. of £5 or upwards, payable at a certain number of days, &c.

After acceptance, and three days after it is due, may be protested.

" WHEREAS great damages and other inconveniences do frequently happen in the course of trade and commerce, by reason of delays of payment and other neglects on inland bills of exchange in this kingdom;" be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the four and twentieth day of June next, which shall be in the year one thousand six hundred and ninety-eight, all and every bill or bills of exchange drawn in, or dated at and from, any trading city or town, or any other place in the kingdom of England, dominion of Wales, or town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, of the sum of five pounds sterling or upwards, upon any person or persons of or in London, or any other trading city, town, or any other place (in which said bill or bills of exchange shall be acknowledged and *expressed the said value to be received*), and is and shall be drawn payable at a certain number of *days, weeks, or months* after *date* thereof, and from and after presentation and acceptance of the said bill or bills of exchange, (which acceptance shall be by the underwriting the same under the party's hand so accepting) and *after* the expiration of three days after the said bill or bills shall become due, the party to whom the said bill or bills are made payable, his servant, agent or assigns, may and shall

cause the said bill or bills to be *protested*¹ by a notary public, and in default of such notary public, by any other substantial person of the city, town, or place, in the presence of two or more credible witnesses, refusal or neglect being first made of due payment of the same; which protest shall be made and written under a fair written copy of the said bill of exchange, in the words or form following:

‘ KNOW all men, that I *A. B.* on the _____ day of _____ at the usual place of abode of the said _____ have demanded payment of the bill, of the which the above is the copy, which the said _____ did not pay, wherefore I the said _____ do hereby protest the said bill. Dated this _____ day of _____

II. Which protest so made as aforesaid, shall, within fourteen days after making thereof, be sent, or otherwise due notice shall be given thereof, to the party from whom the said bill or bills were received, who is, upon producing such protest, to repay the said bill or bills, together with all interest and charges from the day such bill or bills were protested; for which protest shall be paid a sum not exceeding the sum of *sixpence*²; and in default or neglect of such protest made and sent, or due notice given within the days before limited, the person so failing or neglecting thereof, is and shall be liable to all costs, damages, and interest, which do and shall accrue thereby.

III. Provided nevertheless, that in case any such inland bill or bills of exchange shall happen to be lost³ or miscarried *within the time before limited for the payment of the same*, then the drawer of the said bill or bills is and shall be obliged to give another bill or bills of the same tenor with those first given, the person or persons to whom they are and shall be so delivered, giving security, if demanded, to the said drawer, to indemnify him against all persons whatsoever, in case the said bill or bills of exchange so alleged to be lost or miscarried, shall be found again.

APPENDIX.

Further provisions relating hereto, 3 & 4 Anne, c. 9. sect. 4. which is made perpetual by 7 Ann. c. 25. 1 Salk. 131. Mod. cases in the law, 80. 373. 6 Mod. 80.

The form of the protest.

Protest or notice thereof to be given in fourteen days after made, &c.

Bill lost or miscarried, drawer to give another.

¹ As to protest and constructions on this statute, ante, 396, &c.

² Ante, 398.—4 T. R. 170.

³ As to lost bills and constructions on this clause, ante, 196, &c.

APPENDIX. “ spectively, by the space of three¹ days after demand thereof, made
“ by the holder or holders of such notes, drafts, or undertakings
“ in writing, it shall and may be lawful for any one or more of His
“ Majesty’s justices of the peace for the county, riding, city, divi-
“ sion or place, where the person or persons respectively refusing
“ so to pay any of such notes, drafts, or undertakings in writing,
“ as last aforesaid, shall or may happen to be or reside, and such
“ justice or justices is or are hereby required, upon complaint
“ made by the holder or holders thereof, to summon the person
“ or persons against whom such complaint shall be made, and
“ after his, her, or their appearance, or in default thereof, upon
“ due proof upon oath (and which oath such justice or justices is
“ or are hereby empowered to administer) of such summons or
“ warning having been given, such justice or justices shall pro-
“ ceed to hear and determine the said complaint, and award such
“ sum to be paid by the person or persons respectively liable to
“ the payment of every such note, draft or undertaking in writing,
“ to the holder or holders thereof, as shall appear to such justice
“ or justices to be due thereon, together with such a sum for costs,
“ not exceeding the sum of twenty shillings, as to such justice or
“ justices shall seem meet; and if any person or persons shall
“ refuse or neglect to pay or satisfy such sum of money, as upon
“ such complaint as aforesaid shall be adjudged, upon the same
“ being demanded, such justice or justices shall, by warrant under
“ his or their hand and seal, or hands and seals, cause the same
“ to be levied by distress and sale of the goods of the party so
“ neglecting or refusing as aforesaid, together with all costs and
“ charges attending such distress and sale, returning the overplus,
“ if any, to the owner.”

¹ Extended to seven days by the 37th Geo. 3. c. 61. s. 2.

STAMP ACT.

55 GEO. 3. c. 184.

An Act for repealing the Stamp Duties on Deeds, Law Proceedings, and other written or printed Instruments, and the Duties on Fire Insurances, and on Legacies and Successions to personal Estate upon Intestacies, now payable in Great Britain; and for granting other Duties in lieu thereof.

N. B. The new duties to commence and take place from and after the 31st August, 1815.

Section X. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the passing of this act, all instruments for or upon which any stamp or stamps shall have been used of an improper denomination or rate of duty, but of equal or greater value in the whole with or than the stamp or stamps which ought regularly to have been used thereon, shall nevertheless be deemed valid and effectual in the law; except in cases where the stamp or stamps used on such instruments shall have been specially appropriated to any other instrument, by having its name on the face thereof.

Instruments having wrong stamps, but of sufficient value, valid.

Exception.

XI. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall make, sign or issue, or cause to be made, signed or issued, or shall accept or pay, or cause or permit to be accepted or paid, any bill of exchange, draft or order, or promissory note for the payment of money, liable to any of the duties imposed by this act, without the same being duly stamped for denoting the duty hereby charged thereon, he, she or they shall, for every such bill, draft, order or note, forfeit the sum of fifty pounds.

Making, &c. bills of exchange, &c. not duly stamped.

Penalty.

XII. And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall make and issue, or cause to be made and issued, any bill of exchange, draft or order, or promissory note for the payment of money, at any time after date or sight, which shall bear date subsequent to the day on which it shall be issued, so that it shall not in fact become payable in two months, if made payable after date or in sixty days, if made payable after sight, next after the day on which it shall be issued, unless the same shall be stamped for denoting the duty hereby imposed on a bill of exchange and promissory note for the payment of money at any time exceeding two months after date, or sixty days after sight, he, she or they shall,

Post dating bills of exchange, &c.

APPENDIX.

Penalty.

Issuing unstamped drafts on bankers, without specifying place where issued, or if post dated.

Penalty.

Receiving, &c. such drafts.

Penalty.

Bankers paying them.

Penalty.

Promissory notes to bearer on demand, not exceeding £100, re-issued by original makers without further ty.

for every such bill, draft, order or note, forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds.

XIII. And, for the more effectually preventing of frauds and evasions of the duties hereby granted on bills of exchange, drafts or orders for the payment of money, under colour of the exemption in favour of drafts or orders upon bankers or persons acting as bankers, contained in the schedule hereunto annexed, be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall, after the thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, make and issue, or cause to be made and issued, any bill, draft or order, for the payment of money to the bearer on demand, upon any banker or bankers, or any person or persons acting as a banker or bankers, which shall be dated on any day subsequent to the day on which it shall be issued, or which shall not truly specify and express the place where it shall be issued, or which shall not in every respect fall within the said exemption, unless the same shall be duly stamped as a bill of exchange, according to this act, the person or persons so offending shall, for every such bill, draft or order, forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds; and if any person or persons shall knowingly receive or take any such bill, draft or order, in payment of or as a security for the sum therein mentioned, he, she or they shall, for every such bill, draft or order, forfeit the sum of twenty pounds; and if any banker or bankers, or any person or persons acting as a banker, upon whom any such bill, draft or order, shall be drawn, shall pay, or cause or permit to be paid, the sum of money therein expressed, or any part thereof, knowing the same to be post dated, or knowing that the place where it was issued is not truly specified and set forth therein, or knowing that the same does not in any other respect fall within the said exemption, then the banker or bankers, or person or persons so offending, shall, for every such bill, draft or order, forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds, and moreover shall not be allowed the money so paid or any part thereof, in account against the person or persons, by or for whom such bill, draft or order shall be drawn, or his, her or their executors or administrators, or his, her or their assignees or creditors, in case of bankruptcy or insolvency, or any other person or persons claiming under him, her or them.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, it shall be lawful for any banker or bankers, or other person or persons, who shall have made and issued any promissory notes for the payment to the bearer on demand, of any sum of money not

exceeding one hundred pounds each, duly stamped according to the directions of this act, to re-issue the same from time to time, after payment thereof, as often as he, she or they, shall think fit, without being liable to pay any further duty in respect thereof; and that all promissory notes, so to be re-issued as aforesaid, shall be good and valid, and as available in the law, to all intents and purposes, as they were upon the first issuing thereof.

XV. And be it further enacted, That no promissory note for the payment to the bearer on demand, of any sum of money not exceeding one hundred pounds, which shall have been made and issued by any bankers or other persons in partnership, and for which the proper stamp duty shall have been once paid according to the provisions of this act, shall be deemed liable to the payment of any further duty although the same shall be re-issued by and as the note of some only of the persons who originally made and issued the same, or by and as the note of any one or more of the persons who originally made and issued the same, and any other person or persons in partnership with him or them jointly; nor although such note if made payable at any other than the place where drawn, shall be re-issued with any alteration therein only of the house or place at which the same shall have been at first made payable.

XVI. And be it further enacted, That all promissory notes for the payment to the bearer on demand, of any sum of money, which shall have been actually and *bona fide* issued and in circulation, before or upon the said thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, duly stamped according to the aforesaid act of the forty-eighth year of His Majesty's reign, and which shall then be re-issuable within the intent and meaning of that act, or of an act passed in the fifty-third year of His Majesty's reign, for altering, explaining and amending the said former act, with regard to the duties on re-issuable promissory notes, shall continue to be re-issuable until the expiration of three years from the date thereof respectively, but not afterwards, without payment of any further duty for the same; and if any banker or bankers, or other person or persons, shall at any time after the said thirty-first day of August, issue or cause to be issued for the first time, any promissory note for the payment of money to the bearer on demand, bearing date before or upon that day, he, she or they, shall, for every such promissory note, forfeit the sum of fifty pounds.

XVII. Provided always, and, in regard that certain bankers in Scotland have issued promissory notes for the payment to the

APPENDIX.

Such notes not liable to further duty, though re-issued by certain persons not strictly the original makers.

Notes re-issuable under 48 G. 3. c. 149, or 53 G. 3. c. 108, to continue re-issuable till end of three years from date.

In what case bankers issuing promissory notes.

Penalty.

APPENDIX.

Notes with printed dates prior to Aug. 31, 1813, re-issuable till Aug. 31, 1816. 48 G. 3. c. 149.

Issuing notes with printed dates for first time.

Penalty.

Issuing notes in future with printed dates.

Penalty.

Notes re-issuable for limited period cancelled on payment afterwards; and notes not re-issuable, cancelled immediately on payment.

bearer on demand, of a sum not exceeding two pounds and two shillings each, with the dates thereof printed therein, and many such notes have been but recently issued for the first time, although they may appear by the date to be of more than three years' standing, be it further enacted, That all such promissory notes as last mentioned, which shall have been actually and *bona fide* issued and in circulation before or upon the said thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, duly stamped according to the said act of the forty-eighth year of His Majesty's reign, and which shall bear a printed date prior to the thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, shall continue to be re-issuable until the thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, but not afterwards, without payment of any further duty for the same; and if any banker or bankers, or other person or persons, shall at any time after the said thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, issue or cause to be issued, for the first time, any such promissory note, bearing a printed date prior to the said thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, he or they shall for every promissory note so issued, forfeit the sum of fifty pounds.

XVIII. And be it further enacted, That from and after the thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, it shall not be lawful for any banker or bankers, or other person or persons, to issue any promissory note for the payment of money to the bearer on demand, liable to any of the duties imposed by this act, with the date printed therein; and if any banker or bankers, or other person or persons, shall issue or cause to be issued any such promissory note with the date printed therein, he or they shall, for every promissory note so issued, forfeit the sum of fifty pounds.

XIX. And be it further enacted, That all promissory notes hereby allowed to continue re-issuable for a limited period, but not afterwards, shall upon the payment thereof at any time after the expiration of such period, and all promissory notes, bills of exchange, drafts or orders for money, not hereby allowed to be re-issued, shall, upon any payment thereof, be deemed and taken respectively to be thereupon wholly discharged, vacated and satisfied, and shall be no longer negotiable or available in any manner whatsoever, but shall be forthwith cancelled by the person or persons paying the same; and if any person or persons shall re-issue or cause or permit to be re-issued, any promissory note hereby allowed to be re-issued for a limited period as aforesaid, at any time after the expiration of the term or period allowed for that

APPENDIX.

purpose ; or if any person or persons shall re-issue or cause or permit to be re-issued any promissory note, bill of exchange, draft or order for money, not hereby allowed to be re-issued at any time after the payment thereof; or if any person or persons paying or causing to be paid any such note, bill, draft or order as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to cancel the same, according to the directions of this act, then and in either of those cases, the person or persons so offending, shall for every such note, bill, draft or order as aforesaid, forfeit the sum of fifty pounds; and in case of any such note, bill, draft, or order, being re-issued contrary to the intent and meaning of this act, the person or persons re-issuing the same, or causing or permitting the same to be re-issued, shall also be answerable and accountable to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, for a further duty in respect of every such note, bill, draft or order, of such and the same amount as would have been chargeable thereon, in case the same had been then issued for the first time, and so from time to time as often as the same shall be so re-issued; which further duty shall and may be sued for and recovered accordingly, as a debt to His Majesty, his heirs and successors; and if any person or persons shall receive or take any such note, bill, draft or order, in payment of or as a security for the sum therein expressed, knowing the same to be re-issued contrary to the intent and meaning of this act, he, she or they shall, for every such note, bill, draft or order, forfeit the sum of twenty pounds.

Re-issuing notes, &c.

Not cancelling notes, &c.

Penalty.

Re-issuing contrary to act, further duty.

Taking notes, &c. re-issued contrary to act.

Penalty.

Notes and bills of bank of England exempt from stamp duty.

XX. And be it further enacted, That all promissory notes and Bank post bills, which shall be issued by the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, from and after the said thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, shall be freed and exempted from all the duties hereby granted; and that it shall be lawful for the said Governor and Company to re-issue any of their notes after payment thereof, as often as they shall think fit.

XXI. And be it further enacted, That the composition payable by the said Governor and Company of the Bank of England for the stamp duties on their promissory notes and Bank post bills, under the aforesaid act of the forty-eighth year of His Majesty's reign, shall cease from the fifth day of April last; and that the said Governor and Company shall deliver to the said commissioners of stamps, within one calendar month after the passing of this act, and afterwards on the first day of May in every year whilst the present stamp duties shall remain in force, a just and

48 G. 3. c. 149. § 15. made to cease.

APPENDIX.

Notes with printed dates prior to Aug. 31, 1813, re-issuable till Aug. 31, 1816. 48 G. 3. c. 149.

Issuing notes with printed dates for first time.

Penalty.

Issuing notes in future with printed dates.

Penalty.

Notes re-issuable for limited period cancelled on payment afterwards; and notes not re-issuable, cancelled immediately on payment.

bearer on demand, of a sum not exceeding two pounds and two shillings each, with the dates thereof printed therein, and many such notes have been but recently issued for the first time, although they may appear by the date to be of more than three years' standing, be it further enacted, That all such promissory notes as last mentioned, which shall have been actually and *bona fide* issued and in circulation before or upon the said thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, duly stamped according to the said act of the forty-eighth year of His Majesty's reign, and which shall bear a printed date prior to the thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, shall continue to be re-issuable until the thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, but not afterwards, without payment of any further duty for the same; and if any banker or bankers, or other person or persons, shall at any time after the said thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, issue or cause to be issued, for the first time, any such promissory note, bearing a printed date prior to the said thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, he or they shall for every promissory note so issued, forfeit the sum of fifty pounds.

XVIII. And be it further enacted, That from and after the thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, it shall not be lawful for any banker or bankers, or other person or persons, to issue any promissory note for the payment of money to the bearer on demand, liable to any of the duties imposed by this act, with the date printed therein; and if any banker or bankers, or other person or persons, shall issue or cause to be issued any such promissory note with the date printed therein, he or they shall, for every promissory note so issued, forfeit the sum of fifty pounds.

XIX. And be it further enacted, That all promissory notes hereby allowed to continue re-issuable for a limited period, but not afterwards, shall upon the payment thereof at any time after the expiration of such period, and all promissory notes, bills of exchange, drafts or orders for money, not hereby allowed to be re-issued, shall, upon any payment thereof, be deemed and taken respectively to be thereupon wholly discharged, vacated and satisfied, and shall be no longer negotiable or available in any manner whatsoever, but shall be forthwith cancelled by the person or persons paying the same; and if any person or persons shall re-issue or cause or permit to be re-issued, any promissory note hereby allowed to be re-issued for a limited period as aforesaid, at any time after the expiration of the term or period allowed for that

from time to time after the payment thereof, as often as they shall think fit. **APPENDIX.**

XXIV. And be it further enacted, That from and after the tenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, it shall not be lawful for any banker or bankers, or other person or persons (except the Governor and Company of the Bank of England), to issue any promissory notes for money payable to the bearer on demand, hereby charged with a duty and allowed to be re-issued as aforesaid, without taking out a licence yearly for that purpose; which licence shall be granted by two or more of the said commissioners of stamps for the time being, or by some person authorized in that behalf by the said commissioners, or the major part of them, on payment of the duty charged thereon in the Schedule hereunto annexed; and a separate and distinct licence shall be taken out, for or in respect of every town or place where any such promissory notes shall be issued by, or by any agent or agents for or on account of, any banker or bankers or other person or persons; and every such licence shall specify the proper name or names and place or places of abode of the person or persons, or the proper name and description of any body corporate, to whom the same shall be granted, and also the name of the town or place where, and the name of the bank, as well as the partnership, or other name, style or firm under which such notes are to be issued; and where any such licence shall be granted to persons in partnership, the same shall specify and set forth the names and places of abode of all the persons concerned in the partnership, whether all their names shall appear on the promissory notes to be issued by them, or not; and in default thereof such licence shall be absolutely void; and every such licence which shall be granted between the tenth day of October and the eleventh day of November in any year, shall be dated on the eleventh day of October; and every such licence, which shall be granted at any other time, shall be dated on the day on which the same shall be granted; and every such licence respectively shall have effect and continue in force from the day of the date thereof until the tenth day of October following, both inclusive.

Re-issuable notes not issued by bankers or others, without licence. Regulations respecting licences.

XXV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no banker or bankers, person or persons, shall be obliged to take out more than four licences in all for any number of towns or places in Scotland; and in case any banker or bankers, person or persons shall issue such promissory notes as aforesaid, by themselves or their agents, at more than four different towns or places in Scotland, then after taking out three distinct licences for three of such

No banker to take out more than four licences for any number of towns in Scotland.

APPENDIX.

Account of notes,
&c.

Bank of England
to pay composi-
tion for duties on
bills and notes.

Composition
made when bank
resume cash pay-
ments.

The bank and
royal bank of
Scotland, and
British linen
company, may
issue small notes
on unstamped
paper, account-
ing for duties.
48 G. 3. c. 149.
s. 16.

true account, verified by the oath of their chief accountant, of the amount or value of all their promissory notes and Bank post bills in circulation, on some given day in every week, for the space of three years preceding the sixth day of April in the year in which the account shall be delivered, together with the average amount or value thereof according to such account; and that the said Governor and Company shall pay into the hands of the Receiver-General of the Stamp Duties in Great Britain, as a composition for the duties which would otherwise have been payable for their promissory notes and Bank post bills issued within the year, reckoning from the fifth day of April preceding the delivery of the said account, the sum of three thousand five hundred pounds for every million, and after that rate for half a million, but not for a less sum than half a million, of the said average amount or value of their said notes and Bank post bills in circulation; and that one half part of the sum so to be ascertained as aforesaid for each year's composition, shall be paid on the first day of October, and the other half on the first day of April next after the delivery of such account as aforesaid.

XXII., Provided always, and be it further enacted, That upon the said Governor and Company resuming their payments in cash, a new arrangement for the composition for the stamp duties, payable on their promissory notes and Bank post bills, shall be submitted to Parliament.

XXIII. And be it further enacted, That from and after the thirty-first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, it shall be lawful for the Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland, and the Royal Bank of Scotland, and the British Linen Company in Scotland respectively, to issue their promissory notes for the sums of one pound, one guinea, two pounds and two guineas, payable to the bearer on demand, on unstamped paper, in the same manner as they were authorized to do by the aforesaid act of the forty-eighth year of His Majesty's reign; they the said Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland, and the Royal Bank of Scotland, and British Linen Company, respectively giving such security, and keeping and producing true accounts of all the notes so to be issued by them respectively, and accounting for and paying the several duties payable in respect of such notes, in such and the same manner, in all respects, as is and are prescribed and required by the said last-mentioned act, with regard to the notes thereby allowed to be issued by them on unstamped paper, and also to re-issue such promissory notes respectively,

Great Britain; and if any person or persons shall circulate or negotiate, or offer in payment, or shall receive or take in payment any such promissory note, or shall demand or receive payment of the whole or any part of the money mentioned in such promissory note, from or on account of the drawer thereof, in Great Britain, the same not being duly stamped as aforesaid; or if any person or persons in Great Britain shall pay or cause to be paid the sum of money expressed in any such note, not being duly stamped as aforesaid, or any part thereof, either as drawer thereof, or in pursuance of any nomination or appointment for that purpose therein contained, the person or persons so offending shall, for every such promissory note, forfeit the sum of twenty pounds: Provided always, that this clause shall not extend to promissory notes made and payable only in Ireland.

APPENDIX.

Circulating, &c.
such notes, &c.

Penalty.

Proviso for
Ireland.

SCHEDULE—PART I.

	£	Duty. s.	d.
<i>Inland</i> BILL of EXCHANGE, Draft or Order to the bearer, or to order, either on demand or otherwise, <i>not exceeding two months after date, or sixty days after sight</i> , of any sum of money,			
Amounting to 40s. and not exceeding 5 <i>l.</i> 5s.	0	1	0
Exceeding 5 <i>l.</i> 5s. and not exceeding 20 <i>l.</i>	0	1	6
Exceeding 20 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 30 <i>l.</i>	0	2	0
Exceeding 30 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 50 <i>l.</i>	0	2	6
Exceeding 50 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 100 <i>l.</i>	0	3	6
Exceeding 100 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 200 <i>l.</i>	0	4	6
Exceeding 200 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 300 <i>l.</i>	0	5	0
Exceeding 300 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 500 <i>l.</i>	0	6	0
Exceeding 500 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 1,000 <i>l.</i>	0	8	6
Exceeding 1,000 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 2,000 <i>l.</i>	0	12	6
Exceeding 2,000 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 3,000 <i>l.</i>	0	15	0
Exceeding 3,000 <i>l.</i>	1	5	0
<i>Inland</i> BILL of EXCHANGE, Draft or Order for the payment to the bearer, or to order, at any time <i>exceeding two months after date, or sixty days after sight</i> , of any sum of money,			
Amounting to 40s. and not exceeding 5 <i>l.</i> 5s.	0	1	6
Exceeding 5 <i>l.</i> 5s. and not 20 <i>l.</i>	0	2	0
Exceeding 20 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 30 <i>l.</i>	0	2	6
Exceeding 30 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 50 <i>l.</i>	0	3	6
Exceeding 50 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 100 <i>l.</i>	0	4	6
Exceeding 100 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 200 <i>l.</i>	0	5	0

APPENDIX. towns or places, such banker or bankers, person or persons shall be entitled to have all the rest of such towns or places included in a fourth licence.

In what case several towns included in one licence.

XXVI. Provided also, and be it further enacted, That where any banker or bankers, person or persons applying for a licence under this act, would under the said act of the forty-eighth year of His Majesty's reign have been entitled to have two or more towns or places in England, included in one licence, if this act had not been made, such banker or bankers, person or persons, shall have and be entitled to the like privilege under this act.

On applying for licences specimens of notes delivered. Issuing notes without licence.

XXVII. And be it further enacted, That the banker or bankers, or other person or persons applying for any such licence as aforesaid, shall produce and leave with the proper officer, a specimen of the promissory notes proposed to be issued by him or them, to the intent that the licence may be framed accordingly? and if any banker or bankers, or other person or persons (except the said Governor and Company of the Bank of England) shall issue or cause to be issued by any agent, any promissory note for money payable to the bearer on demand, hereby charged with a duty, and allowed to be re-issued as aforesaid, without being licensed so to do in the manner aforesaid, or at any other town or place, or under any other name, style or firm, than shall be specified in his or their licence, the banker or bankers, or other person or persons so offending, shall, for every such offence, forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds.

Penalty.

Licences to continue in force notwithstanding alteration in partnerships.

XXVIII. And be it further enacted, That where any such licence as aforesaid shall be granted to any persons in partnership, the same shall continue in force for the issuing of promissory notes duly stamped, under the name, style or firm therein specified, until the tenth day of October inclusive following the date thereof, notwithstanding any alteration in the partnership.

Promissory notes made out of G. B. not negotiable unless stamped.

XXIX. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the passing of this act, promissory notes for the payment of money to the bearer on demand, made out of Great Britain, or purporting to be made by or on the behalf of any person or persons resident out of Great Britain, shall not be negotiable or be negotiated, or circulated or paid in Great Britain, whether the same shall be made payable in Great Britain, or not, unless the same shall have paid such duty, and be stamped in such manner, as the law requires for promissory notes of the like tenor and value made in

Great Britain; and if any person or persons shall circulate or negotiate, or offer in payment, or shall receive or take in payment any such promissory note, or shall demand or receive payment of the whole or any part of the money mentioned in such promissory note, from or on account of the drawer thereof, in Great Britain, the same not being duly stamped as aforesaid; or if any person or persons in Great Britain shall pay or cause to be paid the sum of money expressed in any such note, not being duly stamped as aforesaid, or any part thereof, either as drawer thereof, or in pursuance of any nomination or appointment for that purpose therein contained, the person or persons so offending shall, for every such promissory note, forfeit the sum of twenty pounds: Provided always, that this clause shall not extend to promissory notes made and payable only in Ireland.

APPENDIX.

Circulating, &c.
such notes, &c.

Penalty.

Proviso for
Ireland.

SCHEDULE—PART I.

	£	Duty. s.	d.
<i>Inland</i> BILL of EXCHANGE, Draft or Order to the bearer, or to order, either on demand or otherwise, <i>not exceeding two months after date, or sixty days after sight</i> , of any sum of money,			
Amounting to 40s. and not exceeding 5 <i>l.</i> 5s.	0	1	0
Exceeding 5 <i>l.</i> 5s. and not exceeding 20 <i>l.</i>	0	1	6
Exceeding 20 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 30 <i>l.</i>	0	2	0
Exceeding 30 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 50 <i>l.</i>	0	2	6
Exceeding 50 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 100 <i>l.</i>	0	3	6
Exceeding 100 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 200 <i>l.</i>	0	4	6
Exceeding 200 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 300 <i>l.</i>	0	5	0
Exceeding 300 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 500 <i>l.</i>	0	6	0
Exceeding 500 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 1,000 <i>l.</i>	0	8	6
Exceeding 1,000 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 2,000 <i>l.</i>	0	12	6
Exceeding 2,000 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 3,000 <i>l.</i>	0	15	0
Exceeding 3,000 <i>l.</i>	1	5	0
<i>Inland</i> BILL of EXCHANGE, Draft or Order for the payment to the bearer, or to order, at any time <i>exceeding two months after date, or sixty days after sight</i> , of any sum of money,			
Amounting to 40s. and not exceeding 5 <i>l.</i> 5s.	0	1	6
Exceeding 5 <i>l.</i> 5s. and not 20 <i>l.</i>	0	2	0
Exceeding 20 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 30 <i>l.</i>	0	2	6
Exceeding 30 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 50 <i>l.</i>	0	3	6
Exceeding 50 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 100 <i>l.</i>	0	4	6
Exceeding 100 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 200 <i>l.</i>	0	5	0

APPENDIX. <i>Inland BILL, &c.—continued.</i>	Duty.		
	£.	s.	d.
Exceeding 200 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 300 <i>l.</i> .	0	6	0
Exceeding 300 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 500 <i>l.</i> .	0	8	6
Exceeding 500 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 1,000 <i>l.</i> .	0	12	6
Exceeding 1,000 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 2,000 <i>l.</i> .	0	15	0
Exceeding 2,000 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 3,000 <i>l.</i> .	1	5	0
Exceeding 3,000 <i>l.</i>	1	10	0

Inland BILL, Draft or Order for the payment of any sum of money though not made payable to the bearer, or to order, if the same shall be delivered to the payee, or some person on his or her behalf

The same duty as on a bill of exchange for the like sum, payable to bearer or order.

Inland BILL, Draft or Order for the payment of any sum of money, weekly, monthly, or at any other stated periods, if made payable to the bearer, or to order, or if delivered to the payee, or some person on his or her behalf, where the total amount of the money thereby made payable shall be specified therein, or can be ascertained therefrom

The same duty as on a bill payable to bearer or order on demand for a sum equal to such total amount.

And where the total amount of the money thereby made payable shall be indefinite

The same duty as on a bill on demand for the sum therein expressed only.

And the following instruments shall be deemed and taken to be inland bills, drafts or orders for the payment of money within the intent and meaning of this schedule ; *vide* *h*ic*it*,
All drafts or orders for the payment of any sum of money by a bill or promissory note, or for the delivery of any such bill or note in payment or satisfaction of any sum of money; where such drafts or orders shall require the payment or delivery to be made to the bearer, or to order, or shall be delivered to the payee, or some person on his or her behalf.
All receipts given by any banker or bankers, or other person or persons, for money re-

Inland BILL, &c.—continued.£. s. d. APPENDIX.

ceived, which shall entitle, or be intended to entitle, the person or persons paying the money, or the bearer of such receipts, to receive the like sum from any third person or persons.

And all bills, drafts or orders, for the payment of any sum of money out of any particular fund which may or may not be available, or upon any condition or contingency which may or may not be performed or happen, if the same shall be made payable to the bearer, or to order, or if the same shall be delivered to the payee or some person on his or her behalf.

Foreign BILL of EXCHANGE (or Bill of Exchange drawn in but payable out of Great Britain) if drawn singly and not in a set .

The same duty as on an inland bill of the same amount and tenor.

Foreign BILLS of EXCHANGE, drawn in sets according to the custom of merchants, for every bill of each set, where the sum made payable thereby shall not exceed 100*l.*

0 1 6

And where it shall exceed 100*l.* and not exceed 200*l.*

0 3 0

And where it shall exceed 200*l.* and not exceed 500*l.*

0 4 0

And where it shall exceed 500*l.* and not exceed 1,000*l.*

0 5 0

And where it shall exceed 1,000*l.* and not exceed 2,000*l.*

0 7 6

And where it shall exceed 2,000*l.* and not exceed 3,000*l.*

0 10 0

And where it shall exceed 3,000*l.*

0 15 0

Exemptions from the preceding and all other Stamp Duties.

All bills of exchange, or Bank post bills, issued by the Governor and Company of the Bank of England.

APPENDIX. BILL—continued.

£. s. d.

35 Geo. 3. c. 94.

All bills, orders, remittance bills and remittance certificates, drawn by commissioned officers, masters and surgeons in the navy, or by any commissioner or commissioners of the navy, under the authority of the act passed in the 35th year of His Majesty's reign, for the more expeditious Payment of the Wages and Pay of certain Officers belonging to the Navy.

All bills drawn pursuant to any former act or acts of Parliament by the commissioners of the navy, or by the commissioners for victualling the navy, or by the commissioners for managing the Transport service, and for taking care of sick and wounded seamen, upon, and payable by the treasurer of the navy.

All drafts or orders for the payment of any sum of money to the bearer on demand, and drawn upon any banker or bankers, or any person or persons acting as a banker, who shall reside or transact the business of a banker, within ten miles of the place where such drafts or orders shall be issued, provided such place shall be specified in such drafts or orders; and provided the same shall bear date on or before the day on which the same shall be issued; and provided the same do not direct the payment to be made by bills or promissory notes.

All bills, for the pay and allowances of His Majesty's land forces, or for other expenditures liable to be charged in the public regimental or district accounts, which shall be drawn according to the forms now prescribed or hereafter to be prescribed by His Majesty's orders, by the paymasters of regiments or corps, or by the chief paymaster, or deputy paymaster, and accountant of the army depot, or by the paymasters of recruiting districts, or by the paymasters of detachments, or by the officer or officers authorized to perform the duties of the paymastership dur-

BILL—continued.

£. s. d. APPENDIX.

ing a vacancy, or the absence, suspension or incapacity of any such paymaster as aforesaid; save and except such bills as shall be drawn in favour of contractors or others, who furnish bread or forage to His Majesty's troops, and who by their contracts or agreements shall be liable to pay the stamp duties on the bills given in payment for the articles supplied by them.

PROMISSORY NOTE for the payment, *to the bearer on demand*, of any sum of money,

Not exceeding one pound and one shilling .	0	0	5
Exceeding 1 <i>l.</i> 1 <i>s.</i> and not exceeding 2 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i> .	0	0	10
Exceeding 2 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i> and not exceeding 5 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> .	0	1	3
Exceeding 5 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> and not exceeding 10 <i>l.</i> .	0	1	9
Exceeding 10 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 20 <i>l.</i> .	0	2	0
Exceeding 20 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 30 <i>l.</i> .	0	3	0
Exceeding 30 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 50 <i>l.</i> .	0	5	0
Exceeding 50 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 100 <i>l.</i> .	0	8	6

Which said notes may be re-issued after payment thereof, as often as shall be thought fit.

PROMISSORY NOTE for the payment, *in any other manner than to the bearer on demand*, but *not exceeding two months after date*, or sixty days after sight, of any sum of money,

Amounting to 40 <i>s.</i> and not exceeding 5 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i>	0	1	0
Exceeding 5 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> and not exceeding 20 <i>l.</i> .	0	1	6
Exceeding 20 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 30 <i>l.</i> .	0	2	0
Exceeding 30 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 50 <i>l.</i> .	0	2	6
Exceeding 50 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 100 <i>l.</i> .	0	3	6

These notes are not to be re-issued after being once paid.

PROMISSORY NOTE for the payment, *either to the bearer on demand*, or in any other manner than to the bearer on demand, but *not exceeding two months after date*, or sixty days after sight, of any sum of money,

Exceeding 100 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 200 <i>l.</i> .	0	4	6
Exceeding 200 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 300 <i>l.</i> .	0	5	0
Exceeding 300 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 500 <i>l.</i> .	0	6	0
Exceeding 500 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 1,000 <i>l.</i> .	0	8	6

APPENDIX. PROMISSORY NOTE—continued.

	£.	s.	d.
Exceeding 1,000 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 2,000 <i>l.</i>	0	12	6
Exceeding 2,000 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 3,000 <i>l.</i>	0	15	0
Exceeding 3,000 <i>l.</i>	1	5	0

The notes are *not to be re-issued* after being once paid.

PROMISSORY NOTE for the payment to the bearer or otherwise, at any time *exceeding two months after date*, or sixty days after sight, of any sum of money,

Amounting to 40 <i>s.</i> and not exceeding 5 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> .	0	1	6
Exceeding 5 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> and not exceeding 20 <i>l.</i> .	0	2	0
Exceeding 20 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 30 <i>l.</i> . .	0	2	6
Exceeding 30 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 50 <i>l.</i> . .	0	3	6
Exceeding 50 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 100 <i>l.</i> .	0	4	6
Exceeding 100 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 200 <i>l.</i> .	0	5	0
Exceeding 200 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 300 <i>l.</i> .	0	6	0
Exceeding 300 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 500 <i>l.</i> .	0	8	6
Exceeding 500 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 1,000 <i>l.</i> .	0	12	6
Exceeding 1,000 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 2,000 <i>l.</i>	0	15	0
Exceeding 2,000 <i>l.</i> and not exceeding 3,000 <i>l.</i>	1	5	0
Exceeding 3,000 <i>l.</i>	1	10	0

These notes are *not to be re-issued* after being once paid.

PROMISSORY NOTE for the payment of any sum of money by instalments, or for the payment of several sums of money at different days or times, so that the whole of the money to be paid shall be definite and certain . . .

The same duty as on a promissory note, payable in less than two months after date for a sum equal to the whole amount of the money to be paid.

And the following instruments shall be deemed and taken to be Promissory Notes, within the intent and meaning of this Schedule; viz.

All notes, promising the payment of any sum or sums of money out of any particular fund, which may or may not be available; or upon any condition or contingency, which may or may not be performed or happen; if the same shall be made payable to the

PROMISSORY NOTE—continued.

£. s. d. APPENDIX.

bearer, or to order, and if the same shall be definite and certain, and not amount in the whole to twenty pounds.

And all receipts for money deposited in any bank, or in the hands of any banker or bankers, which shall contain any agreement or memorandum, importing that interest shall be paid for the money so deposited.

Exemptions from the Duties on Promissory Notes.

All notes, promising the payment of any sum or sums of money out of any particular fund, which may or may not be available; or upon any condition or contingency, which may or may not be performed or happen; where the same shall not be made payable to the bearer or to order, and also where the same shall be made payable to the bearer or to order, if the same shall amount to twenty pounds, or be indefinite.

And all other instruments, bearing in any degree the form or style of promissory notes, but which in law shall be deemed special agreements, except those hereby expressly directed to be deemed promissory notes.

But such of the notes and instruments here exempted from the duty on promissory notes shall nevertheless be liable to the duty which may attach thereon, as agreements or otherwise.

Exemptions from the preceding and all other Stamp Duties.

All promissory notes for the payment of money, issued by the Governor and Company of the Bank of England.

PROTEST of any bill of exchange or promissory note, for any sum of money,

Not amounting to 20l.	0	2	0
Amounting to 20l. and not amounting to 100l.	0	3	0

APPENDIX. PROTEST—*continued.*

	£	s.	d.
Amounting to 100 <i>l.</i> and not amounting to 500 <i>l.</i>	0	5	0
Amounting to 500 <i>l.</i> or upwards	0	10	0
PROTEST of any other kind	0	5	0
And for every sheet or piece of paper, parchment or vellum, upon which the same shall be written, after the first, a further progressive duty of	0	5	0

STATUTE AGAINST USURY.

12 ANN. ST. 2. C. 16.

An Act to reduce the Rate of Interest, without any Prejudice to Parliamentary Securities.

WHEREAS the reducing of interest to ten, and from thence to eight, and thence to six in the hundred, hath from time to time, by experience, been found very beneficial to the advancement of trade, and improvement of lands: and whereas the heavy burden of the late long and expensive war, hath been chiefly borne by the owners of the land of this kingdom, by reason whereof they have been necessitated to contract very large debts, and thereby, and by the abatement in the value of their lands, are become greatly impoverished: and whereas by reason of the great interest and profit which hath been made of money at home, the foreign trade of this nation hath of late years been much neglected, and at this time there is a great abatement in the value of the merchandizes, wares, and commodities of this kingdom, both at home and in foreign parts, whither they are transported: and whereas for the redress of these mischiefs, and the preventing the increase of the same, it is absolutely necessary to reduce the high rate of interest of six pounds in the hundred pounds for a year to a nearer proportion with the interest allowed for money in foreign states; be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That no person or persons whatsoever, from and after the nine and twentieth day of September, in the year of our Lord,

one thousand seven hundred and fourteen, upon any contract which shall be made from and after the said nine and twentieth day of September, take directly or indirectly, for loan of any monies, wares, merchandize, or other commodities whatsoever, above the value of five pounds for the forbearance of one hundred pounds for a year, and so after that rate for a greater or lesser sum, or for a longer or shorter time; and that all bonds, contracts, and assurances whatsoever, made after the time aforesaid, for payment of any principal, or money to be lent or covenanted to be performed upon or for any usury, whereupon or whereby there shall be reserved or taken above the rate of five pounds in the hundred, as aforesaid, shall be utterly void; and that all and every person or persons whatsoever, which shall, after the time aforesaid, upon any contract to be made after the said nine and twentieth day of September, take, accept, and receive, by way or means of any corrupt bargain, loan, exchange, chevissance, shift, or interest of any wares, merchandize, or other thing or things whatsoever, or by any deceitful way or means, or by any covin, engine, or deceitful conveyance, for the forbearing or giving day of payment for one whole year, of and for their money, or other thing, above the sum of five pounds for the forbearing of one hundred pounds for a year, and so after that rate for a greater or lesser sum, or for a longer or shorter term, shall forfeit and lose for every such offence the treble value of the monies, wares, merchandises, and other things, so lent, bargained, exchanged, or shifted.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every scrivener and scriveners, broker and brokers, solicitor and solicitors, driver and drivers of bargains for contracts, who shall, after the said nine and twentieth day of September, take or receive, directly or indirectly, any sum or sums of money, or other reward or thing for brokage, soliciting, driving, or procuring the loan, or forbearing of any sum or sums of money, over and above the rate or value of five shillings for the loan, or for forbearing of one hundred pounds for a year, and so rateably, or above twelve pence, over and above the stamp-duties, for making or renewing of the bond or bill for loan, or forbearing thereof, or for any counter-bond or bill concerning the same, shall forfeit for every such offence twenty pounds, with costs of suit, and suffer imprisonment for half a year; the one moiety of all which forfeitures to be to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, her heirs and successors, and the other moiety to him or them that will sue for the same in the same county where the several offences are committed;

APPENDIX. and not elsewhere, by action of debt, bill, plaint, or information, in which no essoin, wager of law, or protection shall be allowed.

58 GEO. 3. C. 93.

An Act to afford Relief to the bonâ fide Holders of negotiable Securities, without Notice that they were given for a usurious Consideration¹.

Bill of exchange or promissory note given for a usurious consideration not void in the hands of an indorsee if he had no notice thereof.

WHEREAS by the laws now in force, all contracts and assurances whatsoever, for payment of money, made for a usurious consideration, are utterly void: And whereas in the course of mercantile transactions, negotiable securities often pass into the hands of persons who have discounted the same without any knowledge of the original considerations for which the same were given; and the avoidance of such securities in the hands of such *bonâ fide* indorsees without notice is attended with great hardship and injustice; for remedy thereof, be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That no bill of exchange or promissory note, that shall be drawn or made after the passing of this act shall, though it may have been given for a usurious consideration, or upon a usurious contract, be void in the hands of an indorsee for valuable consideration, unless such indorsee had, at the time of discounting or paying such consideration for the same, actual notice that such bill of exchange or promissory note had been originally given for a usurious consideration, or upon a usurious contract.

39 GEO. 3. C. 85. A. D. 1799.

An Act to protect Masters against Embezzlements by their Clerks or Servants.

WHEREAS bankers, merchants, and others, are, in the course of their dealings and transactions, frequently obliged to

¹ In *Lowes v. Mazzaredo*, 1 Stark. 385. it was held, that, if the payee of a bill of exchange, indorses it upon an usurious contract at the time of the contract, a *bonâ fide* holder cannot afterwards recover upon it against the acceptor, which decision just preceded this act.

' entrust their servants, clerks, and persons employed by them in
 ' the like capacity, with receiving, paying, negotiating, exchang-
 ' ing, or transferring, money, goods, bonds, bills, notes, bankers
 ' drafts, and other valuable effects and securities: And whereas
 ' doubts have been entertained whether the embezzling of the same
 ' by such servants, clerks, and others, so employed by their mas-
 ' ters, amounts to felony by the law of England, and it is expe-
 ' dient that such offences should be punished in the same manner
 ' in both parts of the united kingdom ;' be it enacted and declared
 by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and
 consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this
 present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same,
 That if any servant or clerk, or any person employed for the pur-
 pose in the capacity of a servant or clerk, to any person or persons
 whomsoever, or to any body corporate or politic, shall, by virtue
 of such employment, receive or take into his possession any money,
 goods, bond, bill, note, banker's draft, or other valuable security,
 or effects, for or in the name or on the account of his master or
 masters, or employer or employers, and shall fraudulently em-
 bezzle, secret, or make away with the same, or any part thereof,
 every such offender shall be deemed to have feloniously stolen the
 same from his master or masters, employer or employers, for
 whose use, or in whose name or names, or on whose account the
 same was or were delivered to, or taken into the possession of such
 servant, clerk, or other person so employed, although such money,
 goods, bond, bill, note, banker's draft, or other valuable secu-
 rity, was or were no otherwsie received into the possession of his
 or their servant, clerk, or other person so employed; and every
 such offender, his adviser, procurer, aider or abettor, being
 thereof lawfully convicted or attainted, shall be liable to be trans-
 ported to such parts beyond the seas as his majesty, by and with
 the advice of his privy council, shall appoint, for any term, not
 exceeding fourteen years, in the discretion of the court before
 whom such offender shall be convicted or adjudged.

Servants or clerks
 receiving any
 money or other
 effects on their
 master's account,
 and fraudulently
 embezzling or se-
 creting any part
 thereof, shall be
 deemed to have
 feloniously stolen
 the same ; and
 such offenders
 and their abettors
 shall, on convic-
 tion, be liable to
 be transported for
 fourteen years.

APPENDIX.

52 GEO. 3. C. 63. A. D. 1812.

An Act for more effectually preventing the Embezzlement of Securities for Money and other Effects, left or deposited for safe Custody, or other special Purpose, in the Hands of Bankers, Merchants, Brokers, Attornies or other Agents.

Persons subject to panishment, for embezzlement of any deed, or other security for money entrusted to their care.

‘ WHEREAS it is expedient that due provision should be made
 ‘ to prevent the embezzlement of government and other securities
 ‘ for money, plate, jewels and other personal effects, deposited
 ‘ for safe custody, or for any special purpose, with bankers, mer-
 ‘ chants, brokers, attornies and other agents, entrusted by their
 ‘ customers and employers;’ be it therefore enacted by the King’s
 Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of
 the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present
 Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That if
 any person or persons with whom (as banker or bankers, merchant
 or merchants, broker or brokers, attorney or attornies, or agent
 or agents of any description whatsoever) any ordnance debenture,
 exchequer bill, navy, victualling or transport bill, or other bill,
 warrant or order for the payment of money, state lottery ticket or
 certificate, seaman’s ticket, bank receipt for payment of any loan,
 India bond or other bond, or any deed, note or other security for
 money, or for any share or interest in any national stock or fund of
 this or any other country, or in the stock or fund of any corpora-
 tion, company or society established by act of parliament or royal
 charter, or any power of attorney for the sale or transfer of any
 such stock or fund, or any share or interest therein, or any plate,
 jewels or other personal effects, shall have been deposited, or
 shall be or remain for safe custody, or upon or for any special pur-
 pose (without any authority, either general, special, conditional or
 discretionary, to sell or pledge such debenture, bill, warrant, order,
 state lottery ticket or certificate, seaman’s ticket, bank receipt,
 bond, deed, note or other security, plate, jewels or other personal
 effects, or to sell, transfer or pledge the stock or fund, or share or
 interest in the stock or fund to which such security or power of
 attorney shall relate) shall sell, negotiate, transfer, assign, pledge,
 embezzle, secrete or in any manner apply to his or their own use
 or benefit, any such debenture, bill, warrant, order, state lottery
 ticket or certificate, seamen’s ticket, bank receipt, bond, deed,

note or other security, as hereinbefore mentioned, plate, jewels or other personal effects, or the stock or fund, or share or interest in the stock or fund to which such security or power of attorney shall relate, in violation of good faith, and contrary to the special purpose, for which the things hereinbefore mentioned, or any or either of them, shall have been deposited, or shall have been or remained with or in the hands of such person or persons, with intent to defraud the owner or owners of any such instrument or security, or the person or persons depositing the same, or the owner or owners of the stock or fund, share or interest, to which such security or power of attorney shall relate, every person so offending in any part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, shall be deemed and taken to be guilty of a misdemeanor, and being thereof convicted according to law, shall be sentenced to transportation for any term not exceeding fourteen years, or to receive such other punishment as may by law be inflicted on a person or persons guilty of a misdemeanor, and as the court before which such offender or offenders may be tried and convicted shall adjudge.

‘ II. And whereas it is usual for persons having dealings with
 ‘ bankers, merchants, brokers, attornies and other agents, to de-
 ‘ posit or place in the hands of such bankers, merchants, brokers,
 ‘ attornies and other agents, sums of money, bills, notes, drafts,
 ‘ cheques or orders for the payment of money, with directions or
 ‘ orders to invest the monies so paid, or to which such bills, notes,
 ‘ drafts, cheques or orders relate, or part thereof, in the purchase
 ‘ of stocks or funds, or in or upon government, or other securities
 ‘ for money, or to apply and dispose thereof in other ways or
 ‘ for other purposes ; and it is expedient to prevent embezzlement
 ‘ and malversation in such cases also ;’ Be it therefore enacted by
 the authority aforesaid, that if any such banker, merchant, broker,
 attorney or other agent, in whose hands any sum or sums of
 money, bill, note, draft, cheque or order for the payment of any
 sum or sums of money shall be placed, with any order or orders
 in writing, and signed by the party or parties who shall so deposit
 or place the same, to invest such sum or sums of money or the
 money to which such bill, note, draft, cheque or order as afore-
 said shall relate, in the purchase of any stock or fund, or in or
 upon government or other securities, or in any other way or for
 any other purpose specified in such order or orders, shall in any
 manner apply to his or their own use and benefit, any such sum
 or sums of money, or any such bill, note, draft, cheque or order

For preventing
 bankers and
 others, from dis-
 posing for their
 own use of pro-
 perty deposited
 with them.

APPENDIX. for the payment of any sum or sums of money as hereinbefore mentioned, in violation of good faith and contrary to the special purpose specified in the direction or order in writing hereinbefore mentioned, with intent to defraud the owner or owners of any such sum or sums of money, or order for the payment of any sum or sums of money; every person so offending in any part of the United Kingdom, shall in like manner be deemed and taken to be guilty of a misdemeanor, and being convicted thereof according to law, shall incur and suffer such punishment as hereinbefore mentioned.

Act not to prevent persons receiving money due on securities.

III. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that nothing herein contained, shall extend, or be construed to extend, to prevent any of the persons hereinbefore mentioned from receiving any money which shall be or become actually due and payable upon or by virtue of any of the instruments or securities hereinbefore mentioned, according to the tenor and effect thereof, in such manner as he or they might have done, if this act had not been made.

Not to extend to partners not being privy to offence.

IV. Provided also, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the penalty by this act annexed to the commission of any offence intended to be guarded against by this act, shall not extend or be construed to extend to any partner or partners, or other person or persons of or belonging to any partnership, society or firm, except only such partner or partners, person or persons, as shall actually commit or be accessory or privy to the commission of such offence; any thing herein contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Not to lessen any remedy at law or equity regarding party aggrieved.

V. Provided also, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that nothing in this act contained, nor any proceeding, conviction or judgment to be had or taken thereupon, shall hinder, prevent, lessen or impeach any remedy at law or in equity, which any party or parties aggrieved by any offence against this act might or would have had, or have been entitled to if this act had not been made, nor any proceeding, conviction or judgment had been had or taken thereupon; but nevertheless the conviction of any offender against this act shall not be received in evidence in any action at law, or suit in equity, against such offender; and further, that no person shall be liable to be convicted by any evidence whatever, as an offender against this act, in respect of any act, matter or thing done by him, if he shall at any time previously to his being indicted for such offence, have disclosed such act, matter or thing on oath, under or in consequence of any compulsory process of any court of law or equity, in any action, suit or proceed-

ing, in or to which he shall have been a party, and which shall have been *bona fide* instituted by the party aggrieved by the act, matter or thing, which shall have been committed by such offender aforesaid.

VI. Provided always, and it is hereby expressly enacted and declared, that nothing in this act contained shall extend to or affect any person or persons being a trustee or trustees in or under any marriage settlement, will or other deed or instrument, or being a mortgagee or mortgagees of any property whatsoever, whether real or personal, in respect of any act or acts done by any such person or persons in relation to the property comprized in or affected by any such trust or mortgage as aforesaid.

Not to affect trustees or mortgagees.

VII. Provided always, and be it enacted, that every person who shall commit in Scotland any offence against this act, which by the provisions thereof is constituted a misdemeanor, shall be liable to be punished by fine and imprisonment, or by either of them, or by transportation for any term not exceeding fourteen years, as the judge or judges before whom such offender shall be tried and convicted may direct.

Punishment of persons offending in Scotland.

VIII. Provided always, and it is hereby enacted, that nothing herein contained shall extend to restrain any banker, merchant, broker, attorney or other agent, from selling, negotiating, transferring or otherwise disposing of any securities, property or other effects as aforesaid, in their custody or possession, upon which they shall have any lien, claim or demand, which by law entitles them to sell or dispose thereof, unless such sale, transfer or other disposal shall extend to a greater number or to a greater part of such securities, property or other effects as aforesaid than shall be requisite or necessary for the purpose of paying or satisfying such lien, claim or demand; any thing hereinbefore contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Act not to restrain bankers from disposing of securities on which they have a lien.

INTEREST TABLE.*

	1 DAY			2 DAYS			3 DAYS			4 DAYS			5 DAYS			6 DAYS		
£	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.
1	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 0
2	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 1
3	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 2
4	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 3
5	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 3	0	0	0 3
6	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 3	0	0	0 3	0	0	1 0
7	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 3	0	0	1 0	0	0	1 1
8	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 3	0	0	1 0	0	0	1 1	0	0	1 2
9	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 3	0	0	1 0	0	0	1 1	0	0	1 3
10	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 3	0	0	1 1	0	0	1 2	0	0	1 3
20	0	0	0 2	0	0	1 1	0	0	1 3	0	0	2 2	0	0	3 1	0	0	3 3
30	0	0	0 3	0	0	1 3	0	0	2 3	0	0	3 3	0	0	4 3	0	0	5 3
40	0	0	1 1	0	0	2 2	0	0	3 3	0	0	5 1	0	0	6 2	0	0	7 3
50	0	0	1 2	0	0	3 1	0	0	4 3	0	0	6 2	0	0	8 0	0	0	9 3
60	0	0	1 3	0	0	3 3	0	0	5 3	0	0	7 3	0	0	9 3	0	0	11 3
70	0	0	2 1	0	0	4 2	0	0	6 3	0	0	9 0	0	0	11 2	0	1	1 3
80	0	0	2 2	0	0	5 1	0	0	7 3	0	0	10 2	0	1	1 0	0	1	3 3
90	0	0	2 3	0	0	5 3	0	0	8 3	0	0	11 3	0	1	2 3	0	1	5 3
100	0	0	3 1	0	0	6 2	0	0	9 3	0	1	1 0	0	1	4 1	0	1	7 2
200	0	0	6 2	0	1	1 0	0	1	7 2	0	2	2 1	0	2	8 3	0	3	3 1
300	0	0	9 3	0	1	7 2	0	2	5 2	0	3	3 1	0	4	1 1	0	4	11 0
400	0	1	1 0	0	2	2 1	0	3	3 1	0	4	4 2	0	5	5 3	0	6	6 3
500	0	1	4 1	0	2	8 3	0	4	1 1	0	5	5 3	0	6	10 0	0	8	2 2

* N. B. The interest on a bill or note (except when it carries interest by the terms of it from the date) is to be calculated from the time it fell due, until the day when final judgment will be signed. The calculation may be at the rate of one penny for each pound each month, but the above table affords the more precise mode of calculating.

	7 Days			8 Days			9 Days			10 Days			11 Days			12 Days		
£	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.
1	0	0	0 0	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 1
2	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 3
3	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 3	0	0	0 3	0	0	0 3	0	0	1 0	0	0	1 0
4	0	0	0 3	0	0	1 0	0	0	1 0	0	0	1 1	0	0	1 1	0	0	1 2
5	0	0	1 0	0	0	1 1	0	0	1 1	0	0	1 2	0	0	1 3	0	0	1 3
6	0	0	1 1	0	0	1 2	0	0	1 3	0	0	1 3	0	0	2 0	0	0	2 1
7	0	0	1 2	0	0	1 3	0	0	2 0	0	0	2 1	0	0	2 2	0	0	2 3
8	0	0	1 3	0	0	2 0	0	0	2 1	0	0	2 2	0	0	2 3	0	0	3 0
9	0	0	2 0	0	0	2 1	0	0	2 2	0	0	2 3	0	0	3 1	0	0	3 2
10	0	0	2 1	0	0	2 2	0	0	2 3	0	0	3 1	0	0	3 2	0	0	3 3
20	0	0	4 2	0	0	5 1	0	0	5 3	0	0	6 2	0	0	7 0	0	0	7 3
30	0	0	6 3	0	0	7 3	0	0	8 3	0	0	9 3	0	0	10 3	0	0	11 3
40	0	0	9 0	0	0	10 2	0	0	11 3	0	1	1 0	0	1	2 1	0	1	3 3
50	0	0	11 2	0	1	1 0	0	1	2 3	0	1	4 1	0	1	6 0	0	1	7 2
60	0	1	1 3	0	1	3 3	0	1	5 3	0	1	7 2	0	1	9 2	0	1	11 2
70	0	1	4 0	0	1	6 1	0	1	8 2	0	1	11 0	0	2	1 1	0	2	3 2
80	0	1	6 1	0	1	9 0	0	1	11 2	0	2	2 1	0	2	4 3	0	2	7 2
90	0	1	8 2	0	1	11 2	0	2	2 2	0	2	5 2	0	2	8 2	0	2	11 2
100	0	1	11 0	0	2	2 1	0	2	5 2	0	2	8 3	0	3	0 0	0	3	3 1
200	0	3	10 0	0	4	4 2	0	4	11 0	0	5	5 3	0	6	0 1	0	6	6 3
300	0	5	9 0	0	6	6 3	0	7	4 3	0	8	2 2	0	9	0 1	0	9	10 1
400	0	7	8 0	0	8	9 0	0	9	10 1	0	10	11 2	0	12	0 2	0	13	1 3
500	0	9	7 0	0	10	11 2	0	12	3 3	0	13	8 1	0	15	0 3	0	16	5 1

	13 Days			14 Days			15 Days			16 Days			17 Days			18 Days		
£	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.
1	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 1	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 2
2	0	0	0 3	0	0	0 3	0	0	0 3	0	0	1 0	0	0	1 0	0	0	1 0
3	0	0	1 1	0	0	1 1	0	0	1 1	0	0	1 2	0	0	1 2	0	0	1 3
4	0	0	1 2	0	0	1 3	0	0	1 3	0	0	2 0	0	0	2 0	0	0	2 1
5	0	0	2 0	0	0	2 1	0	0	2 1	0	0	2 2	0	0	2 3	0	0	2 3
6	0	0	2 2	0	0	2 3	0	0	2 3	0	0	3 0	0	0	3 1	0	0	3 2
7	0	0	2 3	0	0	3 0	0	0	3 1	0	0	3 2	0	0	3 3	0	0	4 0
8	0	0	3 1	0	0	3 2	0	0	3 3	0	0	4 0	0	0	4 1	0	0	4 2
9	0	0	3 3	0	0	4 0	0	0	4 1	0	0	4 2	0	0	5 0	0	0	5 1
10	0	0	4 1	0	0	4 2	0	0	4 3	0	0	5 1	0	0	5 2	0	0	5 3
20	0	0	8 2	0	0	9 0	0	0	9 3	0	0	10 2	0	0	11 0	0	0	11 3
30	0	1	0 3	0	1	1 3	0	1	2 3	0	1	3 3	0	1	4 2	0	1	5 3
40	0	1	5 0	0	1	6 1	0	1	7 2	0	1	9 0	0	1	10 1	0	1	11 2
50	0	1	9 1	0	1	11 0	0	2	0 2	0	2	2 1	0	2	3 3	0	2	5 2
60	0	2	1 2	0	2	3 2	0	2	5 2	0	2	7 2	0	2	9 2	0	2	11 2
70	0	2	5 3	0	2	8 0	0	2	10 2	0	3	0 3	0	3	3 0	0	3	5 1
80	0	2	10 0	0	3	0 3	0	3	3 1	0	3	6 0	0	3	8 2	0	3	11 1
90	0	3	2 1	0	3	5 1	0	3	8 1	0	3	11 1	0	4	2 1	0	4	5 1
100	0	3	6 2	0	3	10 0	0	4	1 1	0	4	4 2	0	4	7 3	0	4	11 0
200	0	7	1 1	0	7	8 0	0	8	2 2	0	8	9 0	0	9	3 3	0	9	10 1
300	0	10	8 0	0	11	6 0	0	12	3 3	0	13	1 3	0	13	11 2	0	14	9 2
400	0	14	2 3	0	15	4 0	0	16	5 1	0	17	6 1	0	18	7 2	0	19	8 2
500	0	17	9 2	0	19	2 0	1	0	6 2	1	1	11 0	1	3	3 1	1	4	7 3

INTEREST TABLE.

	19 Days			20 Days			21 Days			22 Days			23 Days			24 Days		
£	£	s.	d.f.	£	s.	d.f.	£	s.	d.f.	£	s.	d.f.	£	s.	d.f.	£	s.	d.f.
1	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 2	0	0	0 3	0	0	0 3
2	0	0	1 0	0	0	1 1	0	0	1 1	0	0	1 1	0	0	1 2	0	0	1 2
3	0	0	1 3	0	0	1 3	0	0	2 0	0	0	2 0	0	0	2 1	0	0	2 1
4	0	0	2 1	0	0	2 2	0	0	2 3	0	0	2 3	0	0	3 0	0	0	3 0
5	0	0	3 0	0	0	3 1	0	0	3 1	0	0	3 2	0	0	3 3	0	0	3 3
6	0	0	3 2	0	0	3 3	0	0	4 0	0	0	4 1	0	0	4 2	0	0	4 2
7	0	0	4 1	0	0	4 2	0	0	4 3	0	0	5 0	0	0	5 1	0	0	5 2
8	0	0	4 3	0	0	5 1	0	0	5 2	0	0	5 3	0	0	6 0	0	0	6 1
9	0	0	5 2	0	0	5 3	0	0	6 0	0	0	6 2	0	0	6 3	0	0	7 0
10	0	0	6 0	0	0	6 2	0	0	6 3	0	0	7 0	0	0	7 2	0	0	7 3
20	0	1	0 1	0	1	1 0	0	1	1 3	0	1	2 1	0	1	3 0	0	1	3 3
30	0	1	6 2	0	1	7 2	0	1	8 2	0	1	9 2	0	1	10 2	0	1	11 2
40	0	2	0 3	0	2	2 1	0	2	3 2	0	2	4 3	0	2	6 0	0	2	7 2
50	0	2	7 0	0	2	8 3	0	2	10 2	0	3	0 0	0	3	1 3	0	3	3 1
60	0	3	1 1	0	3	3 1	0	3	5 1	0	3	7 1	0	3	9 1	0	3	11 1
70	0	3	7 2	0	3	10 0	0	4	0 1	0	4	2 2	0	4	4 3	0	4	7 0
80	0	4	1 3	0	4	4 2	0	4	7 0	0	4	9 3	0	5	0 1	0	5	3 0
90	0	4	8 0	0	4	11 0	0	5	2 0	0	5	5 0	0	5	8 0	0	5	11 0
100	0	5	2 1	0	5	5 3	0	5	9 0	0	6	0 1	0	6	3 2	0	6	6 3
200	0	10	4 3	0	10	11 2	0	11	6 0	0	12	0 2	0	12	7 0	0	13	1 3
300	0	15	7 1	0	16	5 1	0	17	3 0	0	18	0 3	0	18	10 3	0	19	8 2
400	1	0	9 3	1	1	11 0	1	3	0 0	1	4	1 1	1	5	2 1	1	6	3 2
500	1	6	0 1	1	7	4 3	1	8	9 0	1	10	1 2	1	11	6 0	1	12	10 2

	25 Days			26 Days			27 Days			28 Days			29 Days			30 Days		
£	£	s.	d.f.	£	s.	d.f.	£	s.	d.f.	£	s.	d.f.	£	s.	d.f.	£	s.	d.f.
1	0	0	0 3	0	0	0 3	0	0	0 3	0	0	0 3	0	0	0 3	0	0	0 3
2	0	0	1 2	0	0	1 2	0	0	1 3	0	0	1 3	0	0	1 3	0	0	1 3
3	0	0	2 1	0	0	2 2	0	0	2 2	0	0	2 3	0	0	2 3	0	0	2 3
4	0	0	3 1	0	0	3 1	0	0	3 2	0	0	3 2	0	0	3 3	0	0	3 3
5	0	0	4 0	0	0	4 1	0	0	4 1	0	0	4 2	0	0	4 3	0	0	4 3
6	0	0	4 3	0	0	5 0	0	0	5 1	0	0	5 2	0	0	5 2	0	0	5 3
7	0	0	5 3	0	0	5 3	0	0	6 0	0	0	6 1	0	0	6 2	0	0	6 3
8	0	0	6 2	0	0	6 3	0	0	7 0	0	0	7 1	0	0	7 2	0	0	7 3
9	0	0	7 1	0	0	7 2	0	0	7 3	0	0	8 1	0	0	8 2	0	0	8 3
10	0	0	8 0	0	0	8 2	0	0	8 3	0	0	9 0	0	0	9 2	0	0	9 3
20	0	1	4 1	0	1	5 0	0	1	5 3	0	1	6 1	0	1	7 0	0	1	7 2
30	0	2	0 2	0	2	1 2	0	2	2 2	0	2	3 2	0	2	4 2	0	2	5 2
40	0	2	8 3	0	2	10 0	0	2	11 2	0	3	0 3	0	3	2 0	0	3	3 1
50	0	3	5 0	0	3	6 2	0	3	8 1	0	3	10 0	0	3	11 2	0	4	1 1
60	0	4	1 1	0	4	3 1	0	4	5 1	0	4	7 0	0	4	9 0	0	4	11 0
70	0	4	9 2	0	4	11 3	0	5	2 0	0	5	4 1	0	5	6 2	0	5	9 0
80	0	5	5 3	0	5	8 1	0	5	11 0	0	6	1 2	0	6	4 1	0	6	6 3
90	0	6	1 3	0	6	4 3	0	6	7 3	0	6	10 3	0	7	1 3	0	7	4 3
100	0	6	10 0	0	7	1 1	0	7	4 3	0	7	8 0	0	7	11 1	0	8	2 2
200	0	13	8 1	0	14	2 3	0	14	9 2	0	15	4 0	0	15	10 2	0	16	5 1
300	1	0	6 2	1	1	4 1	1	2	2 1	1	3	0 0	1	3	10 0	1	4	7 3
400	1	7	4 3	1	8	5 3	1	9	6 3	1	10	8 0	1	11	9 1	1	12	10 2
500	1	14	2 3	1	15	7 1	1	16	11 3	1	18	4 1	1	19	8 2	2	1	1 0

	1 MONTH			2 MONTHS			3 MONTHS			4 MONTHS			5 MONTHS			6 MONTHS		
£	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.
1	0	0	1 0	0	0	2 0	0	0	3 0	0	0	4 0	0	0	5 0	0	0	6 0
2	0	0	2 0	0	0	4 0	0	0	6 0	0	0	8 0	0	0	10 0	0	1	0 0
3	0	0	3 0	0	0	6 0	0	0	9 0	0	1	0 0	0	1	3 0	0	1	6 0
4	0	0	4 0	0	0	8 0	0	1	0 0	0	1	4 0	0	1	8 0	0	2	0 0
5	0	0	5 0	0	0	10 0	0	1	3 0	0	1	8 0	0	2	1 0	0	2	6 0
6	0	0	6 0	0	1	0 0	0	1	6 0	0	2	0 0	0	2	6 0	0	3	0 0
7	0	0	7 0	0	1	2 0	0	1	9 0	0	2	4 0	0	2	11 0	0	3	6 0
8	0	0	8 0	0	1	4 0	0	2	0 0	0	2	8 0	0	3	4 0	0	4	0 0
9	0	0	9 0	0	1	6 0	0	2	3 0	0	3	0 0	0	3	9 0	0	4	6 0
10	0	0	10 0	0	1	8 0	0	2	6 0	0	3	4 0	0	4	2 0	0	5	0 0
20	0	1	8 0	0	3	4 0	0	5	0 0	0	6	8 0	0	8	4 0	0	10	0 0
30	0	2	6 0	0	5	0 0	0	7	6 0	0	10	0 0	0	12	6 0	0	15	0 0
40	0	3	4 0	0	6	8 0	0	10	0 0	0	13	4 0	0	16	8 0	1	0	0 0
50	0	4	2 0	0	8	4 0	0	12	6 0	0	16	8 0	1	0	10 0	1	5	0 0
60	0	5	0 0	0	10	0 0	0	15	0 0	1	0	0 0	1	5	0 0	1	10	0 0
70	0	5	10 0	0	11	8 0	0	17	6 0	1	3	4 0	1	9	2 0	1	15	0 0
80	0	6	8 0	0	13	4 0	1	0	0 0	1	6	8 0	1	13	4 0	2	0	0 0
90	0	7	6 0	0	15	0 0	1	2	6 0	1	10	0 0	1	17	6 0	2	5	0 0
100	0	8	4 0	0	16	8 0	1	5	0 0	1	13	4 0	2	1	8 0	2	10	0 0
200	0	16	8 0	1	13	4 0	2	10	0 0	3	6	8 0	4	3	4 0	5	0	0 0
300	1	5	0 0	2	10	0 0	3	15	0 0	5	0	0 0	6	5	0 0	7	10	0 0
400	1	13	4 0	3	6	8 0	5	0	0 0	6	13	4 0	8	6	8 0	10	0	0 0
500	2	1	8 0	4	3	4 0	6	5	0 0	8	6	8 0	10	8	4 0	12	10	0 0

	7 MONTHS			8 MONTHS			9 MONTHS			10 MONTHS			11 MONTHS			12 MONTHS		
£	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.	£	s.	d. f.
1	0	0	7 0	0	0	8 0	0	0	9 0	0	0	10 0	0	0	11 0	0	1	0 0
2	0	1	2 0	0	1	4 0	0	1	6 0	0	1	8 0	0	1	10 0	0	2	0 0
3	0	1	9 0	0	2	0 0	0	2	3 0	0	2	6 0	0	2	9 0	0	3	0 0
4	0	2	4 0	0	2	8 0	0	3	0 0	0	3	4 0	0	3	8 0	0	4	0 0
5	0	2	11 0	0	3	4 0	0	3	9 0	0	4	2 0	0	4	7 0	0	5	0 0
6	0	3	6 0	0	4	0 0	0	4	6 0	0	5	0 0	0	5	6 0	0	6	0 0
7	0	4	1 0	0	4	8 0	0	5	3 0	0	5	10 0	0	6	5 0	0	7	0 0
8	0	4	8 0	0	5	4 0	0	6	0 0	0	6	8 0	0	7	4 0	0	8	0 0
9	0	5	3 0	0	6	0 0	0	6	9 0	0	7	6 0	0	8	3 0	0	9	0 0
10	0	5	10 0	0	6	8 0	0	7	6 0	0	8	4 0	0	9	2 0	0	10	0 0
20	0	11	8 0	0	13	4 0	0	15	0 0	0	16	8 0	0	18	4 0	1	0	0 0
30	0	17	6 0	1	0	0 0	1	2	6 0	1	5	0 0	1	7	6 0	1	10	0 0
40	1	3	4 0	1	6	8 0	1	10	0 0	1	13	4 0	1	16	8 0	2	0	0 0
50	1	9	2 0	1	13	4 0	1	17	6 0	2	1	8 0	2	5	10 0	2	10	0 0
60	1	15	0 0	2	0	0 0	2	5	0 0	2	10	0 0	2	15	0 0	3	0	0 0
70	2	0	10 0	2	6	8 0	2	12	6 0	2	18	4 0	3	4	2 0	3	10	0 0
80	2	6	8 0	2	13	4 0	3	0	0 0	3	6	8 0	3	13	4 0	4	0	0 0
90	2	12	6 0	3	0	0 0	3	7	6 0	3	15	0 0	4	2	6 0	4	10	0 0
100	2	18	4 0	3	6	8 0	3	15	0 0	4	3	4 0	4	11	8 0	5	0	0 0
200	5	16	8 0	6	13	4 0	7	10	0 0	8	6	8 0	9	3	4 0	10	0	0 0
300	8	15	0 0	10	0	0 0	11	5	0 0	12	10	0 0	13	15	0 0	15	0	0 0
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